

the ARA was to soon offer shares to the public through the Amman Financial Market.

Senior government sources Tuesday said that an American holding firm, Makad group had undertaken a study to set up a public shareholding Jordanian company under the name JADCO, grouping Jordanian, Arab and foreign partners. However, the sources said, the proposed company had not so far been established.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh said that a "letter of intent" had been prepared by the ARA on the tourism investment project on the

(Continued on page 7)

China leaves door open for Iranian nuclear deal

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin left open the possibility Monday that Beijing might proceed with a contract to build civilian nuclear reactors in Iran under international supervision, Israeli diplomats said.

In a meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Jiang noted that it had suspended its 1992 contract to build two reactors for Iran and assured that there was no security threat for Israel, the diplomats said.

Bnt, according to the Israeli sources, Mr. Jiang said that if Beijing did go ahead with the project, it would meet three conditions:

— The reactors would be exclusively for civilian purposes;

— The project would be internationally supervised;

— Beijing would guarantee that nuclear technology would not be transferred to third parties.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Jiang met on the sidelines of the ceremonies for the U.N. General Assembly.

Mr. Rabin warned Mr. Jiang against going ahead with the project, citing "the negative role of Iran in supporting international terrorism and extremist groups in

the Middle East," a diplomat said.

U.S. officials said earlier this month that China had assured Washington it would not give or sell nuclear technology to Iran, which heads the U.S. list of "terrorist" states.

The United States also has been pressing Russia to cancel its nuclear contract with Tehran, but so far Moscow has ignored Washington's appeals.

Balshakov visit delayed

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Balshakov postponed a visit to Tehran for talks on the Caspian Sea expected on Tuesday, the daily Iran News reported.

It said the visit would take place 10 days later, without giving a reason.

Iran and Russia have joined forces to draw up a new legal status for the Caspian to keep its abundant resources from being exploited unilaterally by former Soviet republics bordering its shores.

Mr. Balshakov is to submit a proposal for an international convention to govern the sea, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Maleki said Monday.

The convention calls for a collective sharing of the Caspian's natural resources, ruling out any partition by the five countries bordering it, he said.

The Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 gave rise to three independent states bordering the Caspian, creating a need for the revision of treaties signed in 1921 and 1940 and 1940 between Iran and the Soviet Union on the sea's legal status.

The largest closed sea in the world, the Caspian has an area of 430,000 square kilometres and borders Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan besides Iran and Russia.

Meanwhile, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev will not visit Iran this year as had been reported, his spokeswoman said.

"The minister has no firm plans to visit Iran," Yelena Agapova told Reuters. "He might go there but definitely not this year."

ITAR-TASS news agency last week quoted a military spokesman as saying Mr. Grachev had accepted an invitation from Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Safari for a visit which was likely to take place before the end of the year.



AGREEMENT SIGNED: Interior Minister Salameh Hammad (centre) and Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal on Tuesday sign an agreement on cooperation in security affairs and fighting drugs and crimes at a ceremony held near Lake Tiberias (see story on page one) (Petra photo)

Rabin and Qatari ministers meet for first time in public

DOHA (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Qatar's foreign and interior ministers at U.N. headquarters in New York, in his first such public encounter, the official news agency QNA reported Tuesday.

It said Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ben Khalifa Al Thani and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Ben Jaber Al Thani met Mr. Rabin on Monday on the sidelines of ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

"The meeting focused on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process," the agency said.

Although it was the first public meeting with Mr. Rabin, Qatari officials have since 1994 held several rounds of talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who last met Sheikh Hamad in September.

Qatar said on Oct. 4 it was premature to establish diplomatic ties with Israel although it was possible to establish economic relations.

Last year, Doha said it was ready to sell natural gas to Israel.

It is involved in two multi-billion dollar projects to develop liquefied natural gas in the North Field, with its reserves estimated at 7.079 trillion cubic metres.

These are the third biggest in the world after Russia and Iran.

Qatar and the other Gulf Arab countries in September 1994 lifted the indirect boycott on companies doing business with Israel.

In July, Qatar said it would open a diplomatic mission in the autonomous Palestinian territories, the first such step from a Gulf Arab country.

Oman, the only Gulf state to have officially hosted a visit by Mr. Rabin, said in October it had agreed to open trade offices with the Jewish state, in another first for a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) country.

The other GCC members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police kill suspect in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police raided a hideout on a farm in southern Egypt on Tuesday, killing a suspected militant. Police said the man opened fire as police approached the hideout in sugarcane fields outside Sohag, an impoverished hideout about 350 kilometres south of Cairo. The man was believed to be involved in a robbery of a bank and the killing of a policeman, police said. Sohag and other southern Egyptian provinces have been the site of a three-year campaign by militants to overthrow the government and install Islamic rule. More than 840 people, most of them militants and police, have died in the violence.

Israel cancels visas for Nigerians

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said on Tuesday it had cancelled visas for Nigerians wanting to make pilgrimages to the Holy Land because many pilgrims had stayed on illegally. "There have been cases of many Nigerian pilgrims who came and then stayed here as illegal workers. For this reason, visas have been cancelled," foreign ministry spokesman Ygal Palmor told Reuters. Mr. Palmor said the decision was taken recently but he could not give the numbers of pilgrims or illegal immigrants involved. "There is an ongoing discussion with Nigeria on how to renew pilgrimages under conditions that will allow visits to the holy places but prevent illegal immigration," he said. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported this week that flying to Israel by Nigerians for Christian pilgrimages had been suspended after "defections" by some. NAN said hundreds of the more than 8,000 Nigerians already in Israel for pilgrimages were reported to have disappeared from "camps" and to have taken refuge in other Middle East countries. Mr. Palmor said there were no camps for Nigerian pilgrims. He said they arranged accommodation in Israel the same as other tourists.

1967 war grenade kills child in Port Said

CAIRO (AFP) — A child was killed and another injured in the Suez Canal town of Port Said when a hand grenade they discovered left over from the 1967 Middle East war exploded, the Egyptian daily Al Wafd reported Tuesday. Mohammad Al Sayed Mansour, 12, found the grenade in a pile of iron scrap near his school on Monday. When it exploded, it blew him back 25 metres, killing the boy, Al Wafd said, quoting police. His schoolmate Sayed Rida Ramadan was seriously injured in the blast, the paper said. Port Said, 220 kilometres northeast of Cairo, was on the front lines of the 1967 war against Israel. The two countries signed a peace treaty 12 years later.

Kuwaitis seek forgiveness during solar eclipse

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) Kuwaitis prayed to be forgiven their sins Tuesday during the eclipse of the sun despite a government message that the event was not a sign of God's wrath. Mosques in Kuwait City broadcast prayers over their loudspeakers imploring God to end the hour-long partial eclipse and forgive their sins. The Ministry of Religious Affairs published a message on Monday saying the eclipse was a natural phenomenon and was not "a sign of God's wrath. This is superstition." The eclipse, which was total in South East Asia, was the first seen in the Gulf in 15 years.

At least 9 dead in West Bank crash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — At least nine people died in the Israeli-occupied West Bank when a lorry veered out of control and smashed into a line of cars on Tuesday, police said. Two cars, one of them taking Palestinians to work in Israel, burst into flames killing all their passengers. The Palestinian truck driver from East Jerusalem was among some 20 people injured. The crash near the Jewish settlement of Makkabim, 20 kilometres from Jerusalem, prompted the Israeli parliament to call a special session the same day to debate the high number of fatal road accidents.

18 U.S. warplanes due in Bahrain this week

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will send 18 F-16 fighter jets to Bahrain beginning this week to help face any threat to the Gulf from Iraq in the absence of a U.S. aircraft carrier in the area, the Pentagon said.

The fighters will begin arriving in the emirate on Saturday for a temporary deployment after the carrier Independence left the area last week. The Independence will be replaced by the carrier Nimitz in early January and the F-16s will not remain in Bahrain beyond Dec. 31.

The U.S. already has about 200 air force warplanes in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia on a long-term basis to offset any threat to moderate Gulf states from Iraq and Iran.

The new squadron will be made up of jets from Moody Air Force Base in Georgia and Shaw AF in South Carolina.

"The deployment was based upon consultations between the State of Bahrain, the U.S. and other states in the Gulf to cover gaps after the departure of a U.S. aircraft carrier from the region," the Pentagon said.

"The deployment will be temporary and will last no later than Dec. 31," the brief statement added.

The U.S. has sharply beefed up its military presence in the oil-rich Gulf since a U.S.-led military coalition defeated Iraq and drove its military forces from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war.

But navy officials say privately that U.S. budget cuts have forced a gap between deployments of aircraft carriers in the region due to the high cost of operating the big ships.

Each of the big carriers is home base to more than 50 warplanes and a crew of some 5,000.

The Pentagon currently has enough weaponry and equipment to supply a U.S. armoured brigade stationed in Kuwait. Qatar has also agreed to accept equipment for a brigade, but Saudi Arabia has resisted accepting such American weapons.

"The state of Bahrain has approved the deployment of these aircraft until the 31st of December," the official told Bahrain's official Gulf News Agency, without saying when the deployment would begin.

Last week a senior U.S. military official said Washington wanted to position 30 air force planes in Bahrain to maintain a regular presence in the Gulf even when the aircraft carrier which rotates in the area is there.

A U.S. official in the region said last Wednesday that two U.S. warships with cruise missiles had been ordered to stay within striking range of Iraq to cover the departure of the aircraft carrier from the Gulf.

The USS Independence, which has about 70 warplanes on board, left the Gulf last Tuesday and will not be replaced immediately, the official said.

Meanwhile, 13 ships with enough tanks and other military equipment for more than 20,000 troops were still in the Gulf as U.S. forces maintained the high state of readiness they have kept since August, the official said.

Light sentence predicted for UAE maid

ABU DHABI (R) — The head of a United Arab Emirates (UAE) appeal court said on Tuesday he expected Filipina maid Sarah Balabagan to face a light prison term for killing her employer when a verdict is delivered on next week.

"You will hear a verdict on Oct. 30," Sheikh Bitya Ben Salik, head of the Al 'Ain Islamic Sharia appeal court, told Reuters. "I believe it will be a short prison sentence."

Ms. Balabagan earlier this month escaped a death sentence when the family of the man she stabbed to death dropped their demand for her execution in exchange for \$41,000 in blood money.

A lower court last month condemned the young maid to death for the premeditated murder of Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi. She rejected her claim that she stabbed him 34 times in self-defence during what she said was a rape.

Judge Salik said the Al

'Ain appeal court would announce its ruling once it received formal notice from Ms. Balabagan's attorney that she had agreed to pay the blood money.

One of Ms. Balabagan's lawyers, Salman Lotfi, said her defence team would lodge the notice on Oct. 30.

"If the notice is filed on that day there will be a verdict," said Judge Salik.

He said the fact that the family accepted the blood money would not influence the court's ruling.

"It could be a long prison term or a short one. It has nothing to do with the family's dropping the death sentence... I think it will be a short one," Judge Salik added.

A short prison term could effectively mean that Ms. Balabagan would soon be free because she has already served 15 months in Al 'Ain prison during her trials.

The appeal court had not

been expected to return verdict on Oct. 30. But judicial officials and diplomats said the UAE, angered by an international outcry over the death sentence, was eager to put a swift end to the case.

Ms. Balabagan's death sentence triggered fury in the Philippines, reigniting outrage that swept the country after another Filipina maid, Flor Contemplacion, was hanged in Singapore for double murder in March.

The Baloushi family had rejected several government approaches for demerit but dropped their insistence on the death sentence being carried out in exchange for blood money after President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan intervened personally and urged mercy.

At her first trial Ms. Balabagan was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years imprisonment. She was also awarded compensation after the court concluded she had been raped.

Tourism a potential goldmine for Palestinians

CAIRO (AFP) — Tourism represents one of the few chances for Palestinians to earn money for their nascent self-rule, especially with the upcoming 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ, a study here said.

Tourism is "one of the few opportunities that Palestine possesses at least in the short term to stimulate economic development, create jobs and generate essential hard exchange," British consultant Peter Kendall said in his report.

"Because of restrictive policies by Israel, the Arab tourism sector suffers a quantitative and qualitative disadvantage in comparison to Israel's," Mr. Kendall said.

But Palestinians can exploit the continuing interest of tourists to the Holy Land "located primarily in the

occupied territories," especially East Jerusalem and the West Bank towns of Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho and Nablus.

Mr. Kendall submitted the report at the 11th general assembly of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) in Cairo last week.

"With peace in the Holy Land and the advent of the 2,000-year anniversary of the birth of Christ a significant increase in tourism is expected," the study said.

But the study warned that up to 80,000 new hotel rooms were needed in the Palestinian territories and around 10,000 more workers are needed in the tourism sector.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) running the Gaza Strip and soon to take over towns in the West Bank, under the self-rule accords between the Pales-

tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, has its work cut-out for it.

Only eight people work at the headquarters of its tourism and antiquities agency set up in 1994 in Bethlehem.

The study recommends a number of measures, from the creation of a model artisan village to a reorganisation of the PA's tourism "ministry" costing more than 2.5 million dollars.

Israel, which attracted 4,500 tourists in 1994, the year of its creation, is expected to welcome 2.5 million visitors this year, bringing in 15 per cent of the country's hard currency.

Last year, 28 per cent of the tourists came for religious pilgrimage, making Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ and the second most visited site in the Holy Land after Jerusalem, a

particularly valuable asset. But Bethlehem has hardly any hotels or restaurants, the study said.

Gaza and the West Bank "possess substantial resources for developing international, regional and domestic Arab tourism," the study said.

But the Israeli occupation has stopped Arab tourism investment in the region since 1967 and has neglected its infrastructure such as roads and water systems.

Without Israeli permits to build, Arabs own only 39 hotels with 2,474 rooms in the territories, most of them in East Jerusalem, compared to 65 Israeli hotels with 8,000 rooms in West Jerusalem.

The number of Palestinian tour guides, who must be licensed by Israel, has dropped from 300 to only

80, half of whom have all but retired.

There are only 81 Palestinian tourist agencies, compared to 450 Israeli ones, and there are 10 times as many Israeli transport companies as Palestinian.

The only Arab company to be given permission to collect tourists at Israel's Ben Gurion airport has lost its permit and there is still no Palestinian airport, although plans have been put forward.

Gaza has the only Palestinian beach, "but the best parts, more than 40 per cent, are part of Israeli settlements," the study said.

At Hebron, where 400 Israeli settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians, cars from the territories can not enter the old city and visitors must announce their religion before entering the Ibrahim Mosque.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Madeline
14:30 Ghost Writers
15:00 Tomorrow's World
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme - Cocotte
17:30 Minute
19:00 News in French
19:15
Magazine - Sports Et Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Doc. - Amazing Race
20:00 Anything for a Laugh
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 The Other Americas
22:00 News in English
22:30 Prime
22:45 Drama - Law and Order
23:45 Doc. - Silk Road
00:30 Second Thoughts

PRAYER TIMES

04:24 Fajr
05:42 Sunrise
11:20 Dhuhr
14:20 Asr
16:25 Maghrib
18:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweith, Tel. 510740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Aman International Church Tel. 625226.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Aman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. Aman 13/23

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Nidal Al As'ad 751672

Dr. Youssef Al Naqbi 790194

Dr. Mazen Nabl 830435

Dr. Abdul Rahim Mustafa 744685

First pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairouh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairouh pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636720

Yaacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairouh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Shogairi 246140

Al Ouds pharmacy (-)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 73121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Amman Municipality 632101

Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 714111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre 18181/332

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 64421/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Ann. 64241/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mahas, J. Annam 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 848465

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/71

Al-Ahli, Abdali 661164/6

18 U.S. warplanes due in Bahrain this week

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States will send 18 F-16 fighter jets to Bahrain this week to help the Gulf states defend against Iraq's air force, the Pentagon said.

The fighters will be arriving in the emirate Saturday for a temporary deployment after the warplane dependence left the area last week. The independent states in early January will be replaced by the F-16s, which will not leave Bahrain beyond Dec. 31.

The U.S. already has 200 F-16 fighter jets in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, a long-term basis to deter Iraq from attacking the states from Iraq and Iran.

The new squadron will be made up of jets from the Air Force Base in Texas and Shaw AF in South Carolina.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday meets with visiting Norwegian Bishop, Andreas Aarflot (second left) at the Royal Court. The Bishop was accompanied by other clergy from Norway and Lebanon and Norwegian Ambassador to Jordan Tove Kijewski (third right) (photo by Boghos).

Regent, visiting Norwegian bishop discuss ways to promote inter-faith dialogue

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday conferred with the Bishop of Oslo, Norway, Andreas Aarflot, who praised the role of the Hashemites in promoting inter-faith dialogue for better understanding between followers of different religions.

Prince Hassan urged the bishop to help eliminate what he called "Islamophobia" and the stereotypical attitudes towards Islam.

The Crown Prince asked Bishop Aarflot to join him in promoting the spirit of tolerance and understanding among nations.

President of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AL al Bayt Foundation) Nassereddin Assad and Norwegian Ambassador to Jordan Tove Kijewski attended the meeting.

Bishop Aarflot, who heads the Bible Society in Norway, met with members of the Institute of Interfaith Studies in Jordan to discuss the prospect of holding more dialogues between scholars of different faiths.

The bishop, who arrived here from Cairo Sunday, is accompanied by the Secretary General of the Bible Society in Norway and the head of the Bible Society in Lebanon.

He also met with the leaders of the Bible Society in Jordan, according to a Norwegian embassy spokesperson.

Bishop Aarflot heads the largest Lutheran church in Norway.

He and his delegation will head for the West Bank today on the next leg of their tour of the region to meet members of bible societies.

Jordanian, Israeli and French athletes to compete in Aqaba, Eilat and Taba

PETRA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ed Ben Zeid, chairman of the Jordanian Sports Federation (JSF), Tuesday accompanied 17 physically disabled athletes from France to Petra and the neighbouring Taybet Zaman tourist centre.

In a statement later, the Prince said the visiting delegation, which represents the French Federation of the Handicapped Without Frontiers, will participate in a ceremony to be held in Aqaba Thursday to mark the first anniversary of the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty.

He said the ceremony will include sports competitions, the largest of which are a 1300-metre swim meet from Aqaba to Eilat, Israel between disabled athletes from Jordan, Israel and France (from the visiting team), and a nine-kilometre wheel chair race from Taba, to Eilat.

Prince Ra'ed said the Jordanian team last month held a 10-day training camp in Eilat to prepare for the meet.

He announced that the three countries plan to make this event an annual competition. Next year, he said, plans are to hold the events in France.

Orthodox council expresses dismay at awarding of 'peace prize' to Israeli leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of the Central Orthodox Council in Jordan and Palestine, Raouf Abu Jaber, Tuesday said he was dismayed at the presentation of a "peace prize" by the head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem, Patriarch Deodoros I, to the Israeli Prime Minister and Foreign Minister last week.

The patriarch and his assistants at the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem do not represent the Arab Orthodox Community in Jordan and Palestine in their presentation of these prizes because such action was taken without any regard to Arab national feelings and aspirations, Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times.

"We demand that the Patriarch refrain from any similar actions which do not actually serve the cause of a just and comprehensive peace sought by the Arab nation," he said.

Dr. Abu Jaber, who said the Arab Orthodox Community in Jordan and Palestine currently numbers 200,000 members, added that the head of the church should abstain from involving himself in political and other actions that offend the Arab feelings. He said the patriarch should restrict his actions and work to spiritual, cultural and pastoral affairs and should direct his attention to the improvement of the community's schools.

Dr. Abu Jaber said the church leader has neglected the affairs of his patriarchate and ceded its property and real estate, and tampered with these estates in the holy land.

The patriarch's presentation of the prize to the Israeli leaders earlier drew angry reactions from the community members in Jordan.

Fakhri Kassar, a prominent Jordanian writer and Michael Sindaha, leading community member, both attacked Patriarch Deodoros' action and called on the Orthodox community to oust the Greek head of the church and replace him with an Arab leader.

In a written statement to the Jordan Times, Dr. Abu Jaber appealed to the Orthodox Community in the region to introduce changes in the patriarchate's hierarchy and called on Arab governments and people to help protect the Arab Orthodox heritage and rights in Palestine.

'PNA asks Jordan to consider supplying it with oil products'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestinian self-rule authority has asked Jordan to study the possibility of supplying oil products to the West Bank and Gaza Strip after Israel hands over the territories to the Palestinians, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah said Tuesday.

The minister said the request was made by Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, minister of finance in the Gaza-based Palestinian National Authority (PNA), during a meeting on Monday.

Mr. Darwazah said Jordan stood ready to meet the request, but ruled out that the Kingdom might use Iraqi crude to meet the Palestinian needs at this point in time because of the continuing international sanctions against Iraq.

Most probably, if the supply arrangements are firm up, then Jordan

would be buying and processing Saudi or Syrian crude and reexporting the derivatives to the Palestinians.

In any event, Mr. Darwazah told the Jordan Times, "the Palestinians have to resolve many issues before we could discuss the arrangement in concrete terms."

The minister noted that Israel was supplying oil products to the Palestinians and "they (the Palestinians) have to make arrangements for supply from a different source."

He said Mr. Nashashibi did not refer to specifics but "wanted to discuss the issue in principle whether Jordan could meet the Palestinians' needs, and I said we were willing."

"Now they have to settle the issue of alternate sources of supply with the Israelis and then specify the exact quantity and type of products they want, and then we have to study how best we could supply their



Samih Darwazah

The Zarqa refinery has an installed capacity to process 100,000 barrels of oil per day, and it uses only about 60 to 70 per cent of the capacity to meet local Jordanian needs.

Mr. Darwazah said that using Iraqi crude to supply the Palestinians is out of question in view of the five-year-old international sanctions against Iraq.

Jordan gets 50,000 barrels of crude and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil from Iraq every day under an exemption granted by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

The Kingdom is the only country permitted by the committee to import Iraqi oil.

United Nations sources said last month that a PNA request to extend such an exemption to the Palestinians was rejected by members of the Sanctions Committee even before it was formally presented and discussed.

Agriculture ministry to submit 12 projects to MENA — official

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared 12 draft projects to be submitted to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which opens here Sunday hoping to attract investors and Arab and foreign organisations, according to the director of the ministry's agricultural policy, Walid Abed Rabbo.

These projects include the development of 17,900 hectares of arable land in Wadi Karak, in the south of the country, and a similar project in Tafleh Governorate, Dr. Abed Rabbo said Tuesday.

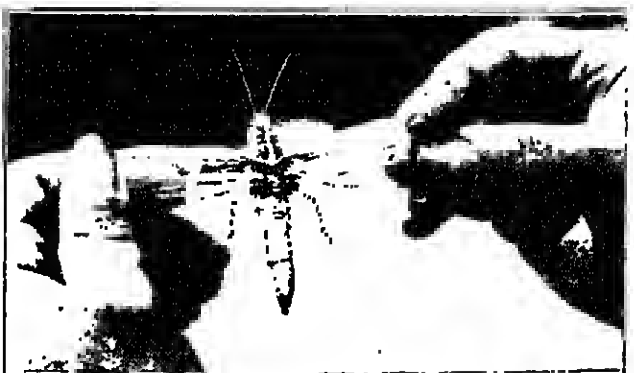
Another project, he said, is the creation of free agricultural trade zones along the common borders of the countries in the Middle East.

Still another project involves training of personnel in modern farming

which entails the application of advanced technology, the control of pests and cooperation among regional or international organisations involved in food production, said Dr. Abed Rabbo.

A proposed project deals with agro-industry and techniques to increase production, according to Dr. Abed Rabbo, who will represent the Ministry of Agriculture at the three-day conference.

According to the director general of the Amman Financial Market and rapporteur of the MENA preparatory committee the number of registered participants to the conference has reached 1,000 of whom 30 per cent are from Arab countries.



A species of crop-devastating locust (file photo)

Red Sea, Yemen locust problem is not threat to Jordan — ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Desert locusts which were spotted on the southern shores of the Red Sea and Yemen pose no threat to Jordan, the Ministry of Agriculture reported Tuesday.

The director of the ministry's Agricultural Products Control Department, Mazen Khasawneh, said that the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) commission for controlling

the desert locusts in the Middle East notified Jordan about the problem in these areas, but he added that the ministry is ready to deal with the situation should locusts begin to appear in the Kingdom.

Jordan last suffered a locust problem in 1988 but dealt promptly with the situation, and no damage to the country's main crops areas were reported.

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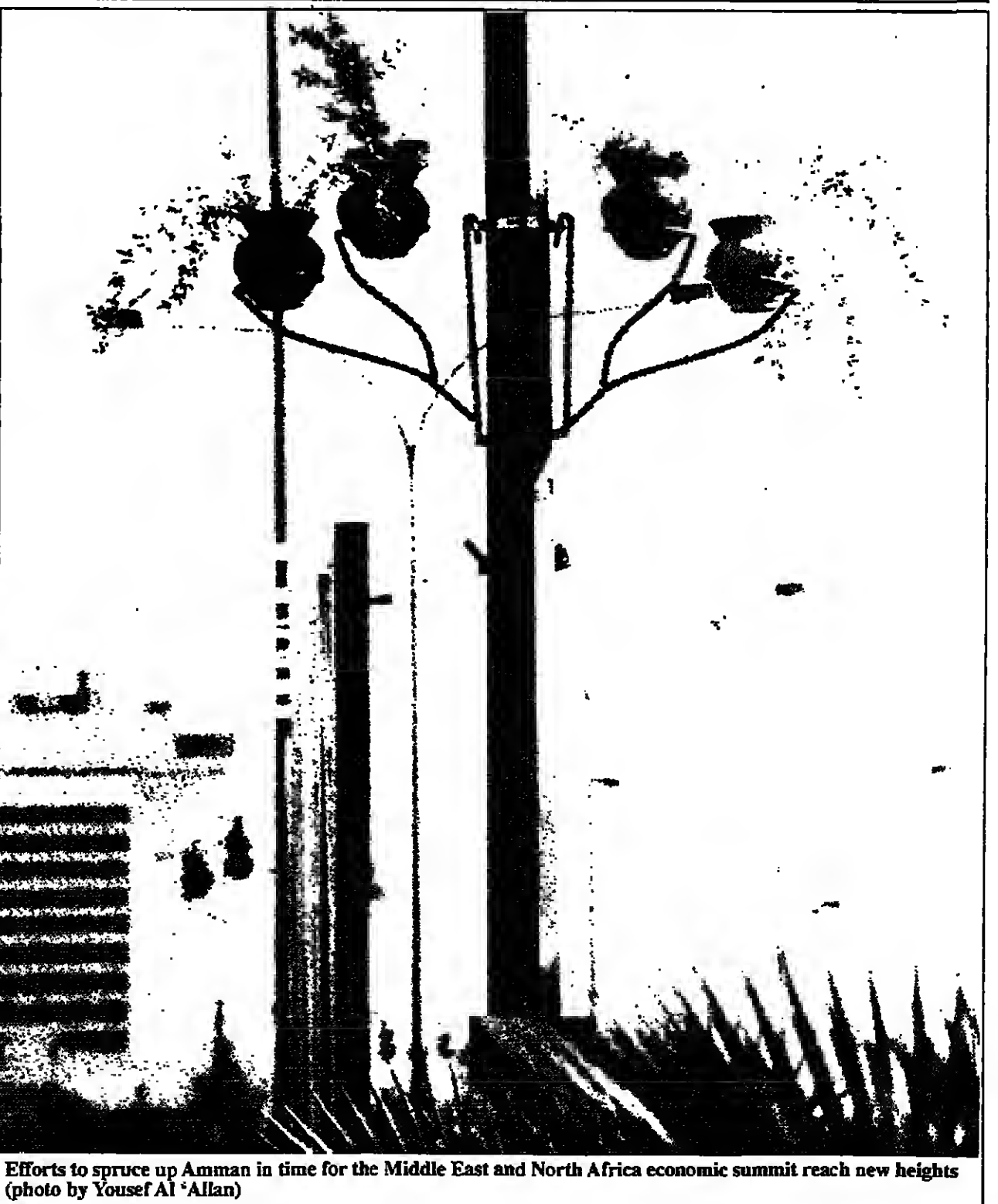
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Jordan Times
684 311 / 699 634

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM
* "Diamonds are Forever," at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS
* Paintings by Salam Kanaan and ceramics by Najwa Annab and Margaret Tadros at Alia Art Gallery.
* Paintings by Iraqi artists Nazem Hamed at Orfali Gallery.
* Paintings by Iraqi artist Saleh Jumaili at Ab'ad Gallery.
* Paintings by Shaker Hassan Al-Said at the French Cultural Centre. Posters on Louis Pasteur's achievements in science.
* A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Furun.



Efforts to spruce up Amman in time for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit reach new heights (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

2 killed in alleged Indian firing in Pakistani Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan-administered Kashmir (Agencies) — Two people were killed and four were injured Tuesday when Indian troops opened fire near a disputed border with India, officials here said.

They accused Indian troops of "unprovoked firing" at Athmuqam, a village 80 kilometres north of Muzaffarabad, capital of the Pakistani-administered zone of divided Kashmir.

The early morning incident left two people dead, including a girl, and four injured, they said, and triggered panic among the civilian population in the village, located in the Neelam Valley along the disputed border.

Some 70 people have been killed in the valley in various shooting incidents involving Indian Border Forces since November last year, officials said.

Ghulam Rasool, a former state minister, condemned the incident and pointed out that it coincided with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. In a statement he called upon U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to pressure India to stop the ceasefire violations.

In Srinagar, India, security forces clashed with Kashmiri demonstrators and fired into the air Tuesday before arresting leaders of a protest march against the United Nations, witnesses said.

Yaseen Malik, president of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was hit on the head during the protest and was carried away unconscious to a police station in Srinagar, they said.

Other prominent separatist leaders detained included Jawed Mir and Shakeel Bakshi, both of the

JKLF, and Syed Ali Geelani, acting chairman of All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference which groups more than 30 separatist organisations.

"Malik and others were arrested for breach of peace and disobeying prohibitive regulations," Kashmir Police Chief B.S. Gill told reporters.

Clashes between stone-throwing protesters and security forces continued two hours after authorities prevented the barefoot demonstrators, who had planned a silent protest march, from leaving Srinagar's old city for the local U.N. Headquarters.

Srinagar is the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, largely Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state, where police and hospitals say more than 20,000 people have been killed in a five-year campaign against Delhi's rule.

Leaders of the march said they were protesting against what they called the U.N.'s unwillingness to intervene in the decades-old dispute between India and Pakistan over the Himalayan region.

Pakistan and many Kashmiri separatists say the U.N. is bound by resolutions dating from the late 1940s to supervise a plebiscite to determine whether Jammu and Kashmir should remain in India.

India says a 1972 treaty with Pakistan made the issue one to be solved in bilateral talks.

New Delhi controls two thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the rest. India accuses Islamabad of training and arming separatist militants spearheading the rebellion, charges Pakistan denies.

Islamabad says it provides only diplomatic and moral support to the separatists.



United States President Bill Clinton (right) laughs with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin during a press conference after their meeting in Hyde Park (AFP photo)

Yeltsin calls press brainless

NEW YORK (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who delights in strutting the world stage, did it again Monday, reducing president Bill Clinton to helpless laughter with a flamboyant display of press-bashing.

Glaring at reporters, growling into the microphone and gesticulating wildly after a summit and lunch with Mr. Clinton at Hyde Park, north of New York City, Mr. Yeltsin said the meeting was a total success despite the press's universal prediction that it would be flop.

Mr. Yeltsin took obvious delight in having the last laugh in the latest in a line of unpredictable performances by the 64-year-old Kremlin leader.

"Coming from my statement yesterday in the United Nations, and if you looked at the press reports, one could see that what you were writing was that today's meeting with President Bill Clinton was going to be a disaster," he said.

"Well, now for the first

time, I can tell you that you're a disaster."

Reverling in the occasion, Mr. Yeltsin went on to tell reporters: "Your brains turned out to be useless."

Mr. Clinton first chuckled loudly, then his laughter turned to loud howls and soon he was doubled up in mirth.

Putting his arm around the Kremlin leader's shoulder, he wiped tears from his eyes. Mr. Yeltsin turned to him smiling gleefully.

"Be sure that you get the right attribution there," Mr. Clinton said in an aside to reporters.

If ever a Russian leader had tried to render a U.S. president temporarily helpless, he could hardly have done better.

Mr. Yeltsin took over the news conference, stepping in to field most of the questions, coaxing reporters on with sweeping gestures and signalling to aides when he thought it should end.

He even waxed lyrical about the summit venue, the picturesque mansion home of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt —

whom he called a "legendary personality".

Holding his hand to his heart, he said: "It is the delight of the Earth, the delight of the planet. I bow low to the workers at the Roosevelt Museum and say thank you for looking after this wonderful museum."

Last week, Mr. Yeltsin made headlines by pinching the backs of two secretaries in the glare of the world's television cameras as he took his seat at a news conference with U.S. and Russian reporters.

In Berlin for ceremonies marking the departure of the last Russian troops from Berlin in August last year, he appeared unsteady after a champagne lunch.

Then he took up the baton to conduct a military band, shocking onlookers with an impromptu performance.

The following month, he failed to get off the plane to meet Ireland's then prime minister, Albert Reynolds, during a brief stop on his way home from a summit in the United States.

Paper: Powell will run for president

LONDON (R) — General Colin Powell is expected to launch an all-out bid to capture the U.S. presidency next month with a formal declaration that he will seek the Republican nomination, the Guardian newspaper reported Tuesday.

The paper quoted unnamed Republican Party sources in Washington as saying the Gulf War hero, former chairman of the U.S. Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, was set to make his move as early as November 11, which is U.S. Veterans' Day.

His entry into the 1996 race would give the Republicans a better-than-even chance of dashing President Bill Clinton's reelection hopes, according to the sources. If elected, Gen. Powell would be the first black president of the United States.

The Guardian said the party's upper echelons increasingly view the retired general as a saviour and are convinced he will declare his candidature before Nov. 23.

It added that Gen. Powell has been emboldened by the runaway success of his autobiography, 1,550,000 copies of which were printed in the first month, and a pop-star reception he received during his promotional campaign.

Gen. Powell has been saying he would decide in November whether to run, either as a Republican or as an independent. Polls show he would beat Mr. Clinton if he were to stand as a Republican.

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Rural China quake kills at least 27

BEIJING (R) — A strong earthquake hit China's rural but densely populated Yunnan province Tuesday, killing at least 27 people and leaving many farmers homeless in foul weather, officials said from the quake-prone region.

The tremor struck during a torrential rainstorm, adding to survivors' misery and making rescue and relief work especially difficult in the rugged mountain province bordering Burma.

Many people in stricken Wuding and Luquan counties perished when their houses collapsed in the 6.47 a.m. (2247 GMT Monday) earthquake, which registered 6.5 on the open-ended Richter Scale, local and provincial officials said by telephone.

"Most were crushed to death in building collapses," a Wuding county official said.

"The epicentre was in a mountainous area, not in town, so the damage was not as extensive as it might have been. Mostly we've had single-storey buildings collapse."

Nearly 200 houses tumbled in on their tenants, killing at least 27 and seriously injuring 66, a seismological official said from the Yunnan capital, Kunming.

Casualty and damage reports were still trickling in from the hardest-hit area, a rugged but populated area some 30 kilometres west of Wuding, officials said.

Large hut unspecified

numbers of people were left homeless, prompting quick mobilisation by relief agencies.

"The situation is extremely serious," said an official in the Wuding Seismological Bureau.

A small reservoir damaged in the tremor was leaking, causing concern for residents living downstream.

The earthquake severed communications to Wuding, home to about 240,000 people, half of them ethnic minorities and half China's predominant Han.

Xinhua News Agency said. Seismologists counted more than 200 aftershocks to the main earthquake, including seven with Richter readings above four.

A Wuding broadcaster said seismologists predicted further aftershocks, prompting many residents to stay outdoors.

"Almost everyone is staying outside and only a few of us are staying in our offices," he said.

All schools closed for the day.

Rescue teams were dispatched to Wuding and Luquan from surrounding counties and from Kunming, about 75 kilometres southeast of the epicentre, provincial officials said.

"I knew instantly it was an earthquake. I felt four shocks. I was horrified," one official said from Wuding.

"We are rather used to earthquakes because they

happen all the time. But we all ran out of our buildings into the rain," he added, estimating that the first wave of tremors lasted a terrifying 15 minutes.

The earthquake jarred residents as far away as Kunming and parts of Sichuan province to the north, but little damage was reported outside the region of the epicentre.

A 7.3-magnitude tremor jolted Yunnan's Menglian region in July, killing 11 people and injuring 136.

The latest earthquake struck at a time of superstitious sensitivity about natural disasters across China.

In the past month, a rare "leap eighth month" on China's traditional lunar calendar, millions of Chinese have taken to wearing specially coloured socks or taking other precautions to guard against brushes with the supernatural.

The last leap eighth month came in 1976, a year when 240,000 people were killed in north China's great Tangshan earthquake and Communist luminaries Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, Prime Minister Zhou Enlai and Marshal Zhu De all died.

The current leap eighth month ended Monday. So acute are popular fears that the People's Daily, the Guangming Daily and other top official newspapers have taken the unusual step of quoting scientists to discount the dangers.

However, Guenter Rexrodt, Berlin party chairman for the Free Democrats, was so distraught over the outcome that he announced he would resign the local post while remaining economics minister in Mr. Kohl's cabinet.

Mr. Kohl said he was pleased because his Christian Democrats emerged the strongest party in all of Berlin, which has regained its status as Germany's capital and is to again become the seat of government by the year 2000. The capital and the government were moved to Bonn after the Nazis' defeat five decades ago.

Governing Berlin for the past four years with the Social Democrats, Christian Mayor Eberhard Diepgen offered another "grand coalition" to the left-leaning party. The Social Democrats said they would think about it.

The Social Democrats won only 23.6 per cent of Sunday's vote, compared to 30.4 per cent in 1990. That is their worst postwar showing in Berlin.

Sunday's vote showed that in some ways, the Berlin wall still stands.

East Berliners gave 36.3 per cent of their vote to the reconstituted East German Communists, now called the Party of Democratic Socialism, or PDS.

Overall, the PDS won 14.7 per cent, making them the third-strongest party in the reunited city.

Many east Germans are drawn to the PDS because the party speaks out for their concerns over jobs and fair treatment in united Germany.

In a statement, the attorney general's office said Mr. Yanez was arrested Saturday and was being held on firearms charges.

Two other people held with him were released without charge.

Mr. Yanez was not being held in relation to an existing arrest warrant issued on Feb. 8, which named Mr. Yanez as a top Zapatista commander, it added.

Kohl gloats over Berlin vote as Social Democrats fret

BONN, Germany (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl gloated Monday over his party's election success in Berlin and ridiculed the opposition Social Democrats, whose showing was their worst in the German capital since World War II.

Speaking at a news conference a day after the Berlin elections, Mr. Kohl said with a smile that "this is a good day."

Mr. Kohl said he was not disturbed that in the Berlin vote his Christian Democratic Union actually lost support: from 40.4 per cent in 1990 to 37.4 per cent.

And he did not appear upset that his junior coalition ally at the federal level, the Free Democrats, lost all their seats in the Berlin parliament because they failed to win 5 per cent of the vote.

However, Guenter Rexrodt, Berlin party chairman for the Free Democrats, was so distraught over the outcome that he announced he would resign the local post while remaining economics minister in Mr. Kohl's cabinet.

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Mr. Yanez was not being held in relation to an existing arrest warrant issued on Feb. 8, which named Mr. Yanez as a top Zapatista commander, it added.

Wilson endorses Dole for president

WASHINGTON (R) — California Governor Pete Wilson Monday threw his support to Republican presidential frontrunner Bob Dole but said he would not accept the vice presidential nomination if Sen. Dole offered it to him.

"Today I am convinced that Bob Dole has the character, the experience and the commitment to conservative change to take the Republican revolution to the presidency," Mr. Wilson, who recently dropped out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination, said at a news conference with Sen. Dole.

Mr. Wilson also said he would not accept the vice presidential nomination if it were offered. There had been speculation that Mr.

Wilson was interested in being Sen. Dole's running mate if Republicans chose the Kansas senator to take on Democratic President Bill Clinton next year.

California is the nation's most populous state and could be decisive for the 1996 presidential election. It is also pivotal in the presidential nomination sweepstakes since it will send the largest number of delegates — 163 — to next summer's Republican national convention in San Diego.

Mr. Wilson, who once served as a senator alongside Sen. Dole, said one thing that unites all Republicans is "our commitment to replace Bill Clinton's liberal vacillation with solid Republican leadership."

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Alleged Zapatista leader arrested in Mexico City, denies charges

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexican authorities, pouring cold water on advances in peace talks in the southern state of Chiapas, said Monday that police had arrested the alleged founder of the Zapatista rebel movement.

Fernando Yanez Munoz, alias Comandante German of the Zapatista national Liberation Army (EZLN), was caught in Mexico City in possession of weapons

including an AK-47 rifle, a spokesman for the attorney general's office said.

Mr. Yanez, in comments to reporters after making a statement to authorities at the city's Oriente Jail, denied the charges.

"I have no links to the EZLN, though it would be an honour for me," Mr. Yanez said. He described himself as a 51-year-old architect living in the northern city of Monterrey.

In a statement, the attorney general's office said Mr. Yanez was arrested Saturday and was being held on firearms charges.

Two other people held with him were released without charge.

Mr. Yanez was not being held in relation to an existing arrest warrant issued on Feb. 8, which named Mr. Yanez as a top Zapatista commander, it added.

Dreamworks to build new animation studio

GLENDAL, California (AP) — Dreamworks SKG, the production company formed by Hollywood heavyweights Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg, has reached a preliminary accord to build an animation studio near Los Angeles. The \$50 million studio in Glendale, 15 kilometres north of Los Angeles, would employ 1,000 people, city officials said Saturday. The first public discussion of the plan is scheduled for Tuesday at a city council meeting. Calls to Dreamworks for comment went unanswered Sunday.

Dreamworks now houses its animation division on the Universal Studios lot in the eastern part of San Fernando Valley. Company officials have said they want to keep the operation in the region because it is home to many of southern California's top animators.

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Seoul says armed N. Korea spies kill police officer

SEOUL (R) — Two men described by Seoul officials as North Korean infiltrators exchanged gunfire with South Korean forces in the central town of Puyo Tuesday and a southern police officer was killed.

The officials said one of the alleged infiltrators was shot in the leg and captured while the other fled into the hills.

"The captured man confessed that he is an agent sent from North Korea in August," a Defence Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

State television news identified the captured man as Kim Do-Sik, 33.

Three South Korean police officers were hit in the gunbattle and one died of his wounds, authorities said.

It was the second reported infiltration by North Korean agents in a week.

Last Tuesday, South Korea said a northern infiltrator in a frogman's suit was shot dead just south of the demilitarised zone dividing the two Koreas. Another survived and fled back across the border.

The South Korean military displayed the naked corpse of the alleged intruder along with survival kits, camera equipment, two automatic rifles, grenades and a frogman's suit.

On Friday, the Seoul Defence Ministry said a rifle and other equipment was found near the border and was thought to belong to a third North Korean agent.

North Korea has denounced the reports as fabrication.

A police officer in Puyo, a small town 140 kilometres south of Seoul, said a huge manhunt was underway Tuesday for the fugitive gunman last seen running into the hills.

He said the two men opened fire with pistols as a team of police and soldiers approached them on a hillside.

Police checkpoints had been set up on roads leading to Puyo and two army helicopters were hovering over the area looking for the fugitive gunman, he said.

Television showed armed troops flagging down vehicles and searching them.

The police officer said the two were spotted by a civilian at around 2:40 p.m. (0540 GMT). The injured gunman was captured about 90 minutes later.

After the earlier alleged infiltration, the U.S.-led United Nations command attempted to lodge a formal protest with Pyongyang but was rebuffed by North Korean officials on the heavily-armed border.

And South Korea's Defence Ministry had said there would be strong countermeasures in the event of another infiltration. It did not say what they might be.

Pyongyang accused Seoul and Washington of fabricating the first incident in a lengthy commentary in the official daily Rodong Sinmun Monday.

"The United States and the South Korean authorities invented another anti-DPRK (North Korea) incident of infiltration of an armed spy," the commentary said.

"The incident is really a clumsy drama."

North and South Korea have been locked in tension since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a shaky truce broken by frequent armed clashes.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (left) laughs with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during a luncheon in New York (AFP photo)

Independence of Taiwan could mean war, Jiang says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The dispute over islands in the South China Sea can be resolved peacefully, China's president said in an interview broadcast Monday, but he said interference with China's claim to Taiwan could lead to "the military option."

President Jiang Zemin said the primary issue at his meeting with President Bill Clinton Tuesday will be Taiwan. The two leaders are meeting in New York during 50th anniversary observances of the United Nations.

Mr. Jiang, interviewed for the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour, said China's military, including a rapid-reaction force, is only for national defence and the country has "no intention whatsoever of handling with other countries."

Mr. Jiang told MacNeil-Lehrer correspondent

Elizabeth Farnsworth that Taiwan is the main issue he will take up with Mr. Clinton. Asked if war would be the inevitable result if Taiwan sought independence, the president replied: "I believe the answer to your question is affirmative."

China favours peaceful reunification with Taiwan "on the basis of one country, two systems," Mr. Jiang said, warning, however, that if there is pressure for Taiwan to seek independence, "I believe then one cannot rule out the military option."

Mr. Jiang said it would be "folly" for the United States to revive a containment policy toward China, he asserted, because rather than a threat, China's growing strength "will make for stability in the world."

The containment policy goes back to the World War

II postwar period, when the Chinese Communists captured the mainland and forced the Chinese Nationalist government to retreat to offshore Taiwan. The United States sought to isolate Beijing until 1979, then switched official U.S. Recognition to the Peoples Republic while continuing trade, military and cultural ties with Taiwan on an unofficial basis.

Mr. Jiang also said the Chinese "hope in the future there will be no recurrence of such an incident" as the private visit to Cornell University last spring by Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui.

Accusing Beijing of overreacting to Mr. Lee's trip, the Clinton administration has refused to ban future U.S. visits by Taiwan leaders but declared if any occur they would be infrequent and private.

Castro: Cuba will not embrace capitalism

NEW YORK (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro said Monday Cuba would never dump communism and embrace capitalism, even if the United States were to lift a crippling trade embargo on the island.

But Mr. Castro, speaking on U.S. television while attending U.N. 50th anniversary celebrations in New York, admitted that Cuban society was too "paternalistic" and had to learn from capitalist efficiency.

"We only need to learn a little bit more about capitalism in order to be more efficient. We have to be less paternalistic," he told CBS television's Dan Rather in an interview.

"Our country would never go back to capitalism. At least today, in this era, people I know do not want capitalism," he said.

Mr. Castro later told NBC nightly news that Cuba would not adopt political reforms in return for the lifting of the embargo the United States has enforced on the Caribbean island for 34 years.

"As a principle we would not accept any political preconditions that might affect

the sovereignty and independence of our country," he said.

"Things that have to do with our domestic policy, with our internal affairs would not be under discussion," he added.

Mr. Castro has used his third visit to the United States since he came to power in 1959 to step up his efforts to free Cuba from the U.S. embargo, which a Republican-controlled Congress in Washington is planning to tighten.

The Cuban leader, who is in New York attending 50th anniversary celebrations at the United Nations, addressed U.S. businessmen and policy-makers Monday at a luncheon hosted for him by the Council on Foreign Relations, a private think-tank of businessmen and diplomats.

But participants said his words were unlikely to be rewarded by a lifting of the U.S. embargo.

"The majority inside felt it was good but that's not going to change anybody's mind outside," said Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. diplomatic interests office in Havana, who was jeered by a group of 50 anti-

Castro protesters as he left the lunch.

Former U.S. Defence Secretary and World Bank President Robert McNamara, publisher Mortimer Zuckerman, head of CBS television Laurence Tisch and Cuban-American investment banker Mario Baeza were among those who attended.

All four declined to provide details of Mr. Castro's speech, citing their pledge of confidentiality to the organisers.

Mr. Castro denounced the embargo in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly Sunday, calling it a "boiseless atomic bomb which kills men, women and children, young and old."

In a speech to supporters in Harlem Sunday night, Mr. Castro said he had dined with U.S. businessmen at the house of a wealthy American family Saturday and they had favoured ending the embargo.

"They understand that the blockade is obsolete and many businessmen are opposed to it," he said at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem.

Japan starts 1st trial for gas attack

TOKYO (R) — The first trial of a cult member for Tokyo's subway attack started Tuesday, when the sect founder's doctor admitted making nerve gas and prosecutors called the atrocity a plot to head off a police investigation.

While admitting making the sarin gas, Tomomasa Nakagawa pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder charges stemming from the March 20 attack, which killed 11 people and made thousands of passengers ill.

He is also on trial for the murder of a rebel follower.

About 5,000 people queued for 56 public seats in the draught courtroom to the first trial directly linked to an attack that kept Japan in a panic for months.

Nearly all seats went to news organisations which hired hundreds of students to get lottery numbers deciding admission so they could have more than the 40 media places allocated.

Dr. Nakagawa, 32, per-

sonal physician to Shoko Asahara, guru of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum supreme Truth sect), told the three-judge court he made the sarin at a laboratory in the sect headquarters near Mount Fuji, about 100 kilometres west of Tokyo, but was not aware there was a plan to use it.

Japan has no jury trials and judges pass verdict and sentence. The maximum penalty for murder is death by hanging.

Dr. Nakagawa's testimony was expected to have a major bearing on Asahara's trial. That is scheduled to open Thursday, unless it is delayed by a minor car accident involving his sole lawyer, who is suffering from whiplash.

The guru has been accused of masterminding the subway attack and will also be tried for murder and attempted murder with the prosecution's case expected to almost mirror details revealed in Tokyo District Court's Room 104 Tuesday.

Asahara's lawyer Shoji Yokoyama said last week that the bearded guru plans to plead not guilty, arguing he was also not aware of what his followers planned.

Dr. Nakagawa said that was not the case.

"Asahara ordered the production of sarin in mid-March," he told the court.

"There is no mistake in the fact that I produced the sarin and that I sealed the liquid in plastic bags," he said.

"(But) I was not aware of a conspiracy to release the gas, although I knew sarin was a dangerous chemical."

Dr. Nakagawa's lawyer said his client admitted he was involved in the murders but only as an accessory. The lawyer asked the court to reduce the charges to accessory to murder.

Dr. Nakagawa also admitted he was involved in the strangulation of a rebel follower Kotaro Ochiai, a separate murder charge against him, but said he played only a minor role.

Sri Lanka troops engage rebel Jaffna City vanguard

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops preparing for the final thrust on the Tamil rebel-held north fought a big battle against rebels protecting the approaches to their prized Jaffna City, the military said Tuesday.

The battle, involving heavy artillery, lasted several hours before dawn Monday. Troops finally repulsed the attack by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Neerveli, the military said.

Eighteen soldiers were killed and 42 wounded in a battle in which an estimated 30 rebels died, the military said.

Neerveli is just eight kilometres from Jaffna City, the jewel in the nation the LTTE hopes to establish in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, which it says is the traditional homeland of the Tamil minority.

Jaffna is now almost within reach of an advancing army that is, according to diplomats, massing to launch an assault on it.

Three army divisions with a combined strength of around 21,000 troops are

poised for the attack, one diplomat said.

"We can expect the attack on Jaffna City after a few days to secure Colombo from guerrilla attacks," the diplomat added.

But the military, which launched the offensive on Oct. 17 to recapture rebel territory in the north, was cautious.

"In the near future, we might take Jaffna (City), I can't tell you exactly when," a military spokesman said.

An assault on the city would mark the decisive phase in a war in which the government says more than 50,000 people have been killed since it began in 1983.

The diplomats said they believed the struggle for densely populated Jaffna may result in a heavy loss of life on both sides, as well as among the civilian population.

But its value as a psychological boost for government troops and a blow to rebel morale far outweighs the risks of provoking international reaction against

Colombo, the diplomats say.

The way to Jaffna, though by no means clear, is now slightly open after battles Sunday and Monday.

A military spokesman said 29 soldiers were killed in Sunday's battle around Palaly, a major government-held air base and headquarters of Sri Lankan troops on the Jaffna peninsula.

Troops on the ground put the rebel casualties in that battle at around 75 killed and 150 wounded, the military said.

But the LTTE said in a statement the battle, which started eight days ago and reached a climax Sunday, ended with the army being beaten back by the rebels and withdrawing. It said only 13 Tigers were killed.

The military says at least 350 rebels and 76 soldiers have died in the offensive.

With the rebels pressed in the north, they have launched attacks on civilians in the east and in Colombo in the south.

"The Tigers are stepping up pressure on us to deflect our push on Jaffna," said a

top military officer in the east.

In the latest attack, the rebels killed 19 men, women and children in the hamlet of Kotiyagala in the east, survivors and police said. All 19 were from the majority Sinhalese community, who make up 74 per cent of Sri Lanka's population of 18 million.

Sunday's attack was the fourth on civilians in the east in two days. On Saturday, 66 people were killed in three villages. The victims included Tamils.

Diplomats said the attacks may distract the military as troops near Jaffna City, and may also be aimed at provoking a Sinhalese backlash against Tamils in the south.

Government concerns of a backlash rose after the rebels staged attacks on two oil installations in Colombo Friday.

The government was forced to put Colombo under curfew after troops fired in the air to stop Sinhalese mobs from attacking Tamils near the oil depots shortly after the rebel raid.

4 wounded as police fire on Chechenya rally

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — At least four people were wounded when police loyal to the pro-Moscow administration in rebel Chechenya opened fire on an opposition rally in the centre of the regional capital Grozny Tuesday, eyewitnesses said.

Participants in the rally told reporters that one man had been killed, but this could not be independently confirmed.

Reporters saw four wounded people — two men and two women — in hospital.

A crowd of up to 3,000 people had gathered near the ruined Presidential Palace in the centre of Grozny to protest against the appointment of Doku

Zavgayev as prime minister to the Moscow-backed Chechen government.

The crowd chanted slogans in support of rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Protesters told reporters who arrived at the scene shortly after the incident that police had opened fire into the crowd.

Meanwhile the speaker of Chechenya's Soviet-era parliament will become head of the Russian-backed government in the break-away republic, a report said Monday, citing Russia's chief negotiator to peace talks.

Yurych Slav Mikhailov told ITAR-TASS that the former lawmaker, Doku Zavgayev, would replace Salembek Khadzhiyev, who

reportedly resigned Monday to take up a new post in Moscow.

Mr. Khadzhiyev has grown increasingly outspoken against the Chechen rebels since his appointment by Moscow earlier this year.

Rebel negotiators have accused him of hindering the peace talks, which have been bogged down for months.

Russian and Chechen negotiators in Grozny, have been working to salvage a shaky July 30 military accord that calls for rebel disarmament and partial Russian troop withdrawal.

Mr. Zavgayev, 54, was speaker of the Chechen Supreme Soviet until it was dissolved by rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev in April

1993.

Mr. Zavgayev has insisted that the former legislature be represented in the talks.

Moscow sent some 40,000 troops to the Caucasus Mountains republic last December to end its bid for independence, and installed a Kremlin-backed government. Thousands of people, many of them civilians, have died in the fighting.

ITAR-TASS, quoting officials in the Chechen government, said Mr. Khadzhiyev had been offered the job of chairman of the state committee for industrial policy.

Mr. Khadzhiyev was unavailable for comment, the news agency said.

Indonesia train plunges into ravine; 17 dead

JAKARTA (R) — Up to 17 people were killed in Indonesia Tuesday when a train left the rails and eight of its carriages plunged into a West Java ravine.

Police in the town of Tasikmalaya told Reuters about 250 people survived the accident when eight coaches and two locomotives fell into the ravine.

The official Antara News

Agency said 17 people were killed and 86 were injured.

Police in Tasikmalaya, 220 kilometres southeast of Jakarta, put the toll at 14 dead and 22 badly injured.

Tasikmalaya police spokesman Nurasamsi said about 250 people on the train from Bandung, 180 kilometres southeast of Jakarta, to Kediri, East Java, escaped unscathed.

"I believe there were too many coaches. Normally, there are eight coaches but this time there were 13," he said by telephone.

Antara quoted Yaya Suhaya, chief of the Tasikmalaya Train Station, as saying the accident occurred 25 kilometres outside the town.

The agency quoted witnesses as saying coaches

were shaking when the train entered a village shortly before the accident.

An official at Tasikmalaya's public hospital told Reuters 70 people had been treated there but only 29 remained by late afternoon.

Transport Minister Haryanto Danunirto and other officials visited the accident site, Antara said.

Amnesty hits continued rights abuses in Burma

BANGKOK (AFP) — Amnesty International Thursday called the release last July of Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi a "positive and welcome step."

But it said the human rights situation in Burma still remained critical.

"The military government's actions this year amount to giving with one hand while taking away with the other," the human rights watchdog said in a statement sent here.

For example in mid-June, shortly before Aung San Suu Kyi's release on July

10, politicians Tun Shwe, Tun Wai and Htwe Mying were arrested for meeting with foreigners and each sentenced to seven years in jail, it said.

The freeing of Ms. Suu Kyi "was a positive and welcome step" by Burma's military government, it said.

"However, the human rights situation there remains critical."

"Thousands of political prisoners remain behind bars, among them at least 50 prisoners of conscience," it said.

Conditions in Burmese

prisons and labour camps also remain "extremely harsh," Amnesty said, with prisoners "subjected to beatings and other ill-treatment" that have cost hundreds of lives.

Human rights violations also occur outside the prisons, it said. Civilians in border areas are at risk of arbitrary arrest, while the army continues to force members of ethnic minorities to work as porters and labourers.

These include thousands of Mons who have been forced to work on the railway being built in southeast

Burma, it said.

The Burmese junta "has made some improvements in human rights, including the reported release of over 2,000 political prisoners since April 1992, the abolition of military tribunals and the lifting of curfew restrictions," Amnesty said.

But "more profound changes" are needed, including the release of all political prisoners, the abolition of forced labour and portering, and an end to the torture and ill-treatment of people throughout the country, it said.

U.K. murder trial pieces together horrible riddle

WINCHESTER, England (R) — The trial of British serial killer suspect Rosemary West is slowly piecing together the horrible riddle of 25 Cromwell Street.

The jury — and the rest of Britain — got answers for the first time Monday to key questions that have been raised since police dug up the remains of nine young women last year at Mrs. West's home.

The main unknown element — whether Mrs. West murdered seven alleged sex victims, a rival for her husband's affections, a stepdaughter and her own first-born child, Heather — is still unclear in a trial due to last three more weeks.

But in taped interviews with the mother of eight

played in court, police revealed publicly for the first time that Mrs. West's curly-haired husband, found dead in his prison cell earlier this year after an apparent suicide, had admitted to murder.

"Your husband Fred has confessed to murdering your daughter Heather seven years ago on the day that she left your house," a police officer told Mrs. West the day before the 16-year-old's dismembered remains were found under the garden.

"What?" screamed Mrs. West, 41. "So she's dead, is that right?" she added before bursting into tears.

Then she said: "He's a dead man if I ever get my hands on him."

Police told the court how

Fred West took them back to his home in the western English cathedral city of Gloucester to point out where they would find more bodies.

He also went with them to fields near his childhood home where the remains of his first wife Rena and the family nanny were unearthed. The two were last seen in the 1960s.

Rose West denies murder and told police she was "totally surprised" to learn that Heather had not in fact left home to start a new life with some money she had been given.

The family had been split up a year and a half earlier when the five younger children were taken into state care following an earlier unrelated police investiga-

tion.

Detectives told Mrs. West her children had spoken of rumours that their sister had been buried under the garden patio.

Mrs. West, an ordinary-looking woman who would melt into any crowd, wiped away tears as a policeman gave an account in the court in Winchester. 160 kilometres from Gloucester, of how Heather was found, home by bone.

The prosecution says the Wests were in the crimes together and forcibly used unwilling young women for sadistic sex, killing them either for kicks or to stop them talking.

Dreamworks to build new animation studio

GLENDALE, California (AP) — Dreamworks Animation, the production company formed by Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg, and Jeffrey Katzenberg, has reached a preliminary agreement to build an animation studio in Los Angeles. The \$50 million studio in Glendale, 10 kilometres north of Los Angeles, would employ 1,000 people, city officials said Saturday. The plan is scheduled for Tuesday at a city council meeting. Calls to Dreamworks for comment were unanswered. Dreamworks now has its animation division in the Universal Studios in the eastern part of the Los Angeles Valley. Company officials have said they want to keep the operation in the region because it is home to many of southern California's top animators.

Queen, Beatles in macabre pop char battle

LONDON (R) — The Beatles and Queen are battling for top spot in Britain's pop charts as singles by singers who have both died hit the charts. The Beatles' new single, "Let It Be...Naked," is at number one, while Queen's "The Miracle" is at number two. The Beatles' new single, "Let It Be...Naked," is a cover of the 1968 hit "Let It Be" by Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and George Harrison. The Beatles' new single, "Let It Be...Naked," is a cover of the 1968 hit "Let It Be" by Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and George Harrison. The Beatles' new single, "Let It Be...Naked," is a cover of the 1968 hit "Let It Be" by Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and George Harrison.

Joke that fell flat grounds war veteran

NEWCASTLE (R) — A World War II veteran told a joke that left him laughing alone at a party. The veteran, who was 90 years old, told a joke about the war. The joke was about a soldier who was killed in the war. The veteran said that the soldier was killed because he was too old to fight. The joke was not funny to the other people at the party.

Woman averts rape by severing organ

KHULNA (Bangladesh) — A woman averted a rape by severing her own vagina. The woman, who was 25 years old, was being raped by a man. She cut her own vagina with a sharp object. The man was arrested and charged with rape. The woman is now recovering from her injuries.

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Israel tolerates torture

WHEN EVEN Israeli Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair finds the methods of interrogation of his country's security service, the Shin Bet, unacceptable and illegal, then there must be something terribly wrong with the way Israel goes about questioning Palestinian suspects. Specifically speaking, Shin Bet's resort to violent shaking of detainees, better known as "tiltulin," has already led to a known death of a Palestinian this year. There may have been other fatalities that were left unreported.

After accusing the state security agency of deliberately misleading the cabinet to win consent to this unlawful method of interrogation, by presenting inaccurate demonstration of the shaking method of the government, the attorney general criticised the extension by three months of a special ministerial permit for Shin Bet to use harsh interrogation methods including violent shaking. "We will not open torture chambers to replace the gathering of intelligence," Mr. Ben-Yair warned recently in an interview with an Israeli newspaper. "I am not willing to see every Palestinian youth with a black beard who is detained for questioning end up brain damaged," he added.

We hardly expected that the era of peace in the area would perpetrate the practice of torture and ill-treatment of detainees in Israel. Need we remind the Israelis that they are party to the International Convention Against Torture? It is obvious that the ministerial committee which extended the inhuman treatment of suspects beyond the original two-year period has not acquainted, or chose not to acquaint, itself with the provisions of the convention against torture because had it done so it would not have given a green light once again to Israeli interrogators to shake violently detained Palestinians.

Amnesty International (AI) was obviously too alarmed by Israeli indifference to international standards that it had once again voiced its concern on Monday. What AI is now targeting is the draft amendment to Israel's criminal code that purports to legitimise torture. This projected change in Israeli law would reinterpret the phenomenon of torture in a restrictive manner in order to exclude from its scope torture perpetrated during interrogation by police. This new legal construction would make a mockery of international norms which Israel is committed to observing and enforcing.

Israel has always bragged about its democracy and respect for human rights. Instead of setting a good example for the region, it has, by its own admission, turned into a principal violator of human rights. Perhaps the Jewish state is also drifting to the proposition that the end justifies the means. If that is the case, then it is no different from the many countries which are paying only lip service to international human rights standards.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Tuesday likened the United Nations to the Arab League, saying both have aged and become obsolete. Mohammad Kawash said that the two organisations, which emerged almost at the same time 50 years ago, have shown more failures than successes and, most importantly, they have proved to be biased and under the hegemony of the United States. When the United Nations came into being, following the end of World War II, the world's population became filled with new hopes for progress and peace, said the writer. But soon afterwards, the world organisation was transformed into a tool in the hand of the Western powers, which steer it towards their own benefits and their own selfish interests, he added. Now that the United Nations is 50 years old, it has entered a stage of senility and total impotence and it became completely unable to end international disputes, he said. The writer said that the United Nations has now been transformed into a platform for speeches and is serving as an umbrella for America's foreign policies.

HILMI AL Asmar, editor of Al Sabeel Islamic weekly, criticised the Arab countries for failing to mend fences between themselves while working on removing all barriers that used to separate them from Israel. The writer said that before reconciling with the enemy, the Arab regimes ought to come to an agreement over settling their own differences and reach a consensus on a collective stand vis-a-vis the Jewish state. Many people believe that it is unwise and illogical for Arab capitals to open their arms to the Jews while these doors are closed to Arab citizens, argued the writer. What is happening, he said, is total capitulation to the enemy and would not benefit the Arabs in any way. The writer said that he conducted a quick survey among the citizens in Jordan and found out that the majority supports his views.

Washington Watch

Arab-Americans emphasise their role in U.S. politics

By Dr. James Zogby

OVER RECENT years Arab-Americans have made steady inroads into the U.S. political system. And when the Arab-American Institute (AAI) convenes its 10th anniversary conference in Washington next month, its national leadership will reflect on both a decade of past success and a future filled with new challenges.

The institute's founding in 1985 marked the growing awareness of Arab-Americans that the further advancement of the community required a concentrated effort to develop political power.

1984 was the first year that Arab-Americans participated as an organised community in the presidential campaigns of both major political parties. The 1984 Reagan-Bush campaign established the first ever Arab-American committee, as did the Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign on the Democratic side.

But that same year also saw Arab-Americans excluded from other national and local campaigns.

With the founding of the AAI as a bipartisan electoral project, Arab-American Republican and Democratic leaders declared their intent to build on the successes of 1984 and end political exclusion once and for all.

The AAI founding event in 1985 was significant in a number of ways. It opened with an Arab-American leadership meeting with then-President Ronald Reagan. The conference also featured presentations by Senator Robert Dole (R-KS), James Abdnor (R-SD) and Dennis DeConcini (R-AZ). Most importantly the AAI conference issued the document "A Plan that Works" — which served as the institute's political programme for the next decade.

The plan was simple: increase Arab-American voter registration; target Arab-American involvement in local elections in order to build grass roots political networks; increase Arab-American participation in both the Democratic and Republican parties; focus Arab American community support on Arab-American candidates for public office; and bring Arab-American issues into the mainstream of American electoral politics.

Although there is still much to be achieved, during the past 10 years Arab-Americans have recorded significant progress in all of those areas.

In some communities, voter registration has more than doubled.

For example, in Dearborn, Michigan candidates once campaigned against Arab-Americans — now they actively seek the community's support. Dearborn now has an Arab-American city council member and will soon elect a school board member. And in a recent election the Arab-American vote was a critical factor in securing approval for a new bond issue for the Dearborn school system.

The number of Arab Americans in politics has increased dramatically. In seven states Arab Americans sit on the Executive Boards of their state party organisations. In 1988 and 1992 Arab Americans elected almost one thousand of their number to state party delegate positions. And the AAI has established the Arab American Leadership Council, a vehicle which now includes over 250 Arab-American elected officials and party leaders, including dozens of high ranking judges and state senators and legislators.

Arab-American access to government has improved substantially from the past on both the national and local levels. In major cities across the U.S. Arab-Americans sit on appointed boards and commissions and, in some communities, receive grants to support Arab-American social services. And on the national level Arab-Americans are

national party leaders and have regular access to major branches of government.

With five Arab-American members of Congress and Arab-Americans serving in the administration (there have been high ranking Arab-Americans in the past three administrations), the community now has leaders to whom they can bring their concerns and with whom they can work.

And finally, Arab-Americans have developed the expertise to bring their issues into the American political mainstream.

In 1988, for example, after electing over 500 delegates to state party conventions and passing platform planks in 10 state conventions which supported Palestinian rights and the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, 55 Arab-Americans were elected delegates to the Democratic National Convention. This was the largest number of Arab-Americans ever to attend a national convention. The previous high was four.

Those 55 formed a coalition with 1,200 other delegates and forced the Democratic Party for the first time to debate the issue of Palestinian statehood. They also succeeded in

"Arab-Americans have learned that the political process in (the U.S.) provides an extraordinary opportunity to secure our rights and improve our lives. It provides our community with the opening to act as a bridge between our U.S. home and our countries of origin."

passing planks for Lebanon and against ethnic stereotyping.

Similarly, AAI's efforts to raise public awareness about Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees in 1990 and its coalition effort to raise awareness of the dangers to civil liberties posed by the anti-terrorism bill this year also demonstrated Arab-American expertise in raising issues in the political process.

And so it is after years of political activism and growing political sophistication that Arab-Americans will gather in Washington from Nov. 9-11 to address the new challenges faced by the community and to plot a strategy for the 1996 elections.

An impressive array of U.S. political leaders will head this year's AAI anniversary programme. Two Clinton administration cabinet officials are already confirmed: Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. The Arab-American delegates will also receive a briefing at the White House and then the National Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

At least 12 members of the 104th Congress will address the Arab-Americans, including the five Arab-Americans in Congress and both Senate minority leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and House minority whip David Bonior (D-MI). Leading the Republican presence at the conference will

be the Arab-American Senator from Michigan, Spencer Abraham, and two candidates for the Republican presidential nomination — Senator Arlen Specter and Pat Buchanan.

And there may yet be more. Other Republican challengers have yet to finalise their schedules for that week, and may include a visit to the conference. The institute's invitations to President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore to address the conference are also still pending.

In its continuing effort to provide an organising focus to Arab American political activity, this year's conference will feature three unique and important sessions. The first will be the convening of the national organisation of Arab-American judges. There are currently more than 60 Arab-American judges presiding in courtrooms across the country.

The conference will also witness the first national effort to form a network of the more than 7,000 Arab-American merchants who own and operate stores in the heart of many major U.S. cities. AAI has been working with the merchants in several cities, dealing with their relations with the African-American community, the violence and crime they face daily and the untapped economic and political power of this important group within the Arab-American community.

Finally, the conference will host a discussion on the question of Arab-American identity. Arab-American leaders nationwide have complained in recent years about the fragmentation of the community along religious, subnational (and even village) and generational lines. The AAI leaders felt a need to convene a national dialogue on the challenge to our unity and communal identity.

As always, the conference will chart both Arab-American achievements in 1995 and prepare for the community's involvement in the 1996 elections.

This year Arab-Americans face serious issue challenges that require the community to respond. On the domestic side, immigration reform, the need for social services, the threat posed to civil liberties by the anti-terrorism bill and intra-communal relations in our major cities. On foreign policy, Arab-Americans will continue to speak out on the ongoing struggle for Palestinian rights, for recognition of Syrian and Lebanese sovereignty over all of their respective territories, and security, stability and better U.S. relations with the Arab World as a whole.

Arab-Americans have learned that the political process in this country provides an extraordinary opportunity to secure our rights and improve our lives. It provides our community with the opening to act as a bridge between our U.S. home and our countries of origin.

We have also learned that we can play a significant role in helping to shape the national debate on issues that concern us — and that we can best play that role by becoming participants in the political process.

While there are those who still sit on the sidelines and insist no changes are occurring, a brief look at where we were 20 or 30 years ago compared with where we are today makes clear that our march is succeeding. Our plan is working.

If we continue to grow in strength, register more voters and increase our involvement in the political process, the next 10 and 20 years will see even more progress.

My invitation to those who wish to participate in this march, or to those who wish to support our programmes, is to join us in Washington from Nov. 9-11 to work with us on our "Decision '96" programme.



Russian policy may remain if Kozyrev goes — analysts

By Timothy Heritage
Reuters

MOSCOW — If Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev was forced to step down it would set alarm bells ringing in the West but it might not signal a major shift in Russian foreign policy, according to Western and Russian officials.

President Boris Yeltsin said last week he was ready to back Kozyrev, 44, who has helped build bridges with the West but has been accused in Moscow of allowing Russia to be ignored in international peace moves on former Yugoslavia.

Speaking last week before leaving for France and the United States, Mr. Yeltsin appeared to step back from his threat saying that Mr. Kozyrev's performance would be improved if he found a good deputy to handle paperwork.

But speculation seems bound to persist around the position of the Boyish-looking foreign minister, the longest-serving cabinet minister. Commentators in Moscow suggested that even if Mr. Kozyrev finally went it would not bring about any immediate major changes in policy.

"Kozyrev's departure will put foreign governments in a tizzy because they will take it as a signal of a change in policy," a Moscow-based Western diplomat said.

"But it need not mean a change of policy. The alternative is confrontation with the West and I don't think any rational Russian would accept that."

tators agree, pointing out that Mr. Kozyrev has been a loyal servant to Mr. Yeltsin and has to a large extent followed his lead in foreign policy. "If he is right in what he has been saying, he has just been carrying out the president's policy," said Alexander Golts, a commentator with the Defence Ministry newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda. "There would be no change in policy if he went," said Sergei Karaganov, deputy head of the Institute of Europe thinktank. "If (foreign policy) has to be led by the president and his apparatus."

Mr. Kozyrev himself has argued that the Foreign Ministry's work has been hindered by losing good workers because of the low wages the ministry offers.

Foreign governments appear to agree that financial restraints under market reforms have left him little room for manoeuvre and recognise the need to "sell" Russian policy to hardliners and nationalists in parliament.

This, diplomats say, would limit the scope of Mr. Kozyrev's successor.

"Russian politics leave little room for manoeuvre. The problem is having to work in such a way as to convince the politicians here that you are defending Russian interests," one Western diplomat said.

"In fact, they are inclined to be a bit more flexible in talks than public rhetoric suggests. Some of their comments must be seen in this light."

New U.S. foreign policy concept evolving

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

HYDE PARK, N.Y. — President Bill Clinton's new use of emergency powers to strike at Colombia's Cali drugs cartel reflects an evolving concept of U.S. foreign policy focused on updated assessments of security threats.

Aides say his goal is to forge a link between domestic and foreign concerns that will strike a chord with an increasingly isolationist American public. "People understood during the cold war that, in some concrete sense, the communists were a threat to them, a real danger," one senior U.S. official said.

But in the post-cold war world, that threat of a specific communist adversary has given way to often vague talk about a "new world order" that has left many Americans questioning the necessity of overseas engagement.

"Americans don't care about the new world order. They care about the things that threaten now, and Mr.

Clinton's message is that he understands that," the official told Reuters.

The result is that summits with Kremlin leaders, such as the one with Russian President Boris Yeltsin here in upstate New York on Monday, no longer have the dramatic, war-or-peace fascination for Americans that they used to.

Hence the U.S. president, who is seeking reelection in 1996 and has struggled with foreign policy during his first term, outlined a different sort of 21st century global initiative on Sunday.

In a speech at celebrations of the United Nations 50th birthday, he focused on a drive against drug dealers, other international criminals and terrorists.

"People are going to ask, 'why is Clinton the right foreign policy president for the second term?'" and the answer is that he understands the kinds of threats that matter to the American people," the official said.

At the United Nations, Mr. Clinton said he had used national security powers to freeze assets of the

Cali cartel, Colombia's biggest drug-trafficking organisation, and to stop U.S. companies from doing business with its front organisations.

He also directed his cabinet to identify nations that assist in money laundering and to warn them that unless they adhere to international standards, they may face sanctions.

"Criminal enterprises are moving vast sums of ill-gotten gains through the international financial system with absolute impunity," Mr. Clinton said in his speech. "We must not allow them to wash the blood off profits from the sale of drugs from terror or organised crimes."

The U.S. argument is that terrorism, nuclear proliferation, drug trafficking and organised crime transcend national borders, threatening the citizens of both developed and developing nations, especially open-market democracies.

"You can't deal with drugs alone. You can't deal with terrorism alone. You can't deal with nuclear

smuggling alone. So you need to be involved, you need to have a U.N. It's all connected to real threats," the U.S. official said.

Geography used to be a predominant force in foreign policy but has receded with technology and communications advances.

"Nation states are still the most important actors in the system but now we have a whole plethora of other forces," such as multi-national corporations, he said. "You begin to see the outlines of how one might think of foreign policy in very very different terms."

The new theme of 21st century foreign policy goals has been evolving for nearly a year in weekly brainstorming sessions among a small group including deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott, the chiefs of staff of the secretaries of state and defence and other officials.

Still to be resolved, officials say, is how institutions like NATO, the United Nations and the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe will be transformed.

Israel, PLO snagged over Jenin withdrawal details

JENIN, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — A day before Israel is supposed to start withdrawing from this West Bank city, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were snatched over details — including whether Palestinian police can wear uniforms and carry guns when they move in.

Palestinian police want to enter Jenin, the first West Bank city to be turned over to Palestinian control under an expanded Israeli-PLO autonomy agreement, armed and in uniform, driving military vehicles, Kadouria Musa, an aide to PLO chief Yasser Arafat, said Tuesday.

The first few Palestinian officers are expected in Jenin on Wednesday, the official start of the withdrawal, although the bulk of the 1,000 Palestinian police to be posted in Jenin are not supposed to arrive until Nov. 14.

Israel opposes a military convoy, which would drive through the West Bank from Jericho to Jenin. Jericho and the Gaza Strip have been Palestinian-ruled since last year, under the terms of the initial Israel-PLO autonomy agreement.

"The Israelis want them to enter in civilian dress and without weapons," said Mr. Musa. "The way they enter Jenin is very important to us and we reject the Israeli proposal."

Israeli soldiers dismantled trailers at army headquarters in Jenin on Tuesday, and Palestinians decorated the city with flags and balloons.

"From the moment I was born, I saw Israeli soldiers," said Khaled Bisher, 24, an unemployed physical therapist in Jenin. "I'll be happy to see some Palestinian police here."

Palestinian and Israeli officers were to meet late Tuesday to try to resolve the dispute over how the police enter the city.

Mr. Musa said the dispute caused Palestinian West Bank police chief Brig. Gen. Haj Meisul to storm out of a meeting Monday with Israeli West Bank military commander Major General Gabi Ofir.

Jenin Governor Hikmat Zeid said he expected the dispute to be resolved.

"The most important thing is that the Palestinian police arrive in Jenin. It does not matter the way they enter," Mr. Zeid said.

A second dispute arose over the date for completing redeployment in Jenin, Israel Radio said. Palestinians want Israel out by Nov. 13, six days earlier than originally agreed, the report said.

Israel is considering the demand, the report said. In any case, Israel is scheduled to move out of the Jenin police station Wednesday and begin the transfer of authorities to the city.

Foreign ministry director general Uri Savir agreed Monday that the army could speed up its pullout from Jenin, the first of six Palestinian towns to be evacuated by the end of the year.

"We may make an effort at the request of the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA) to advance the date of the end of the Jenin withdrawal," he said.

"The redeployment will begin by setting up a cooperation bureau in the Jenin district to oversee the transition," Mr. Savir explained.

"Then there will be a three-week period when the army will complete its withdrawal and during which civil powers will be handed over on November 5."

During those three weeks Israel will remain responsible for maintaining law and order, and only once the last troops have left will the Palestinian police take charge," Mr. Savir said.

The police station in Jenin, which has 50 men, is to be transferred to the Jewish settlement of Mevo Dotan, 10 kilometres away, at the start of the pullout.

By the end of December, Tulkarem, Nablus, Qalqilya, Ramallah and Bethlehem are also due to have been handed over to Palestinian control to allow elections to a self-rule

council to take place in January.

Special arrangements have been made for the flashpoint town of Hebron where soldiers will remain to protect 400 settlers living among 120,000 Palestinians.

The Israeli army earlier this month quit four Palestinian villages on the West Bank ending 28 years of occupation.

An Israeli peace group urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to prevent Jewish settlers from building a shopping mall in the West Bank which the group said would sabotage peace moves with Palestinians.

A settler spokesman said that a Swiss investor had signed a contract to build a 5,300 square-metre mall on the road to Nablus and that a committee under Mr. Rabin had approved the project.

Mr. Rabin's office said there would be no comment, if any, until the prime minister returned late in the week from an official visit to the United States.

The political secretary of Israel's Peace Now, Mossi Raz, wrote in a letter sent to Mr. Rabin on Monday:

"The construction will sabotage the peace process and strengthen its opponents. I request you delay building in the area and bring the subject to the ministerial committee (on building)."

Several left-wing cabinet members sit on the ministerial committee and would likely oppose the project.

Palestinian security officials said on Monday they had arrested a ring of Arab collaborators with Israel on suspicion of killing at least two Palestinian policemen and one militant.

Palestinian officers said those arrested had been recruited by Israel when it occupied the Gaza Strip. One said the killings, after Gaza came under Palestinian rule, were an effort to destabilise the Gaza Strip.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said: "We won't comment on this because it has nothing to do with us."



U.N. MEETINGS: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat walks with Norwegian Prime Minister Harlem Brundtland after a meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly special session (AFP photo)

U.N. event draws to a close

(Continued from page 1)

failed.

"The Bosnian government and army will not accept the division and disintegration of our country, no matter what packaging it may be served," Mr. Izetbegovic said, speaking to a nearly empty General Assembly hall.

Mr. Izetbegovic and leaders of Croatia and Serbia met Oct. 31 in Ohio for U.S.-sponsored peace talks. Rebel Bosnian Serbs self-styled parliament voted Monday to demand the right to secede from Bosnia.

The president said democratic elections under international supervision were the best way to bring peace to Bosnia. "We have heard nice and noble words on democracy, freedom and all that comes with it," he said.

"Let us listen to what they are saying but let us ask them what they are doing," Mr. Izetbegovic said of the Serbs. "As soon as they return home, unfortunately, they will continue their course. It is up to us to stop them."

Kuwait 'softens' its position

(Continued from page 1)

said Kuwait would be represented by Abdul Mohsen Al Humaid, the Finance Ministry undersecretary, Bader al Humaidi, director-general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and Faisal Al Mukhaizeem, charge d'affaires at Kuwait's embassy in Amman.

The officials said they could not confirm or deny the report.

Jordan, Israel sign accord

(Continued from page 1)

agriculture will sign an accord on agricultural cooperation at Beit Shean in northern Israel.

A draft agreement on transport, including civil aviation, is now under review by a ministerial advisory council, the officials said. They could not say when the review would be over and whether further negotiations were needed before the draft could be finalised.

The trade accord will clear the way for direct exports and imports between the two sides under separate classifications of preferential treatment. It also contains a provision on investments in each other's territory subject to the recently endorsed Jordanian investment promotion law.

The accord on agricultural cooperation sets annual quotas for produce that Jordan can export to Israel at

50,000 tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables, 30,000 live sheep, 2,000 tonnes of cheese and 900 tonnes of olive oil, according to reports.

The agreement also gives Israel the right to export to Jordan products that the Kingdom currently imports from other countries. According to Israeli spokesman Ronny Hassid, quoted by the Associated Press, milk is an item that could lead Israeli exports to Jordan.

"The peace is a good peace, but this has warmed it a little," said Mr. Hassid. "This agreement helps the farmers of Jordan and hurts Israeli farmers a little."

Mr. Hassid added that Israel hoped the United States and Europe would ease restrictions on Israeli imports to counter any losses to Israeli agriculture.

Jordan voices satisfaction

(Continued from page 1)

elements of peace which help them to build institutions and launch cooperation, he said.

Jordan hopes that the peace era will help its people to attain a better standard of living, said the Prince, noting that the government had already introduced economic measures such as the reduction of taxes to fight poverty.

The Regent said Jordan hopes to build regional mechanisms like banks and regional centres for economic planning and consultation, and to seek world help to develop the region.

Prince Hassan said that the construction of the region could be carried out through understanding and commitment, adding that no party

can plan or decide the future of the other.

The Amman conference will offer the region a chance to present itself as a region where all ethnic groups and followers of different faiths can cooperate and live together in harmony and peace without any discrimination, he said.

As to Jerusalem, he said, he could not predict the status of the city because the question of Jerusalem was left until the last phase of the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

But, he said, the city should be open to the followers of the monotheistic faiths since Jerusalem should remain a symbol of peace.

Senate votes to move embassy

(Continued from page 1)

House or the State Department.

The final version of the Dole bill said that half the State Department's operating funds would be withheld if the embassy was not opened in Jerusalem by May 31, 1996.

It also earmarks \$100 million in fiscal 1996 and 1997 for construction of a new diplomatic mission in Jerusalem.

But in addition to allowing a series of six-month waivers, which essentially render any deadline moot, the bill also departs from the tougher earlier version by dropping a requirement that construction in Jerusalem begin in 1996.

Members of Mr. Clinton's Democratic Party joined with the Republican majority in the Senate to support moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

"Moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem will send the right signal not a destructive signal," said Senator Joseph Biden, a Democrat from Delaware.

"To do no less would be to play into the hands of those who have tried the hardest to deny Israel the full attribution of statehood."

"The location of the U.S. embassy never was and never

should be the subject of the (peace) negotiations," said Senator Joseph Lieberman, a Democrat of Connecticut. "It is our decision. It is an American decision."

Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, a Republican, declared that the U.S. embassy should be located in "the capital of Israel, which is the custom for all our other embassies."

Earlier Tuesday, Syria warned that prospects for Arab-Israeli peace will be weakened if the U.S. Congress approved moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

The daily Tishrin, the government's leading newspaper, said the legislation "will inflict gross damage on the American role in the peace process and might undermine the whole peace process."

Tishrin said that a decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem "means recognition of Israel's occupation of the city. It represents America's flagrant bias in favour of Israel."

Tishrin singled out for attack Mr. Dole, who hopes to be U.S. president when the move takes place.

Mr. Dole, said Tishrin, "should not seduce American voters at the expense of other people's rights."

King meets Saudi leader

(Continued from page 1)

need for overcoming differences in views and to work towards restoring normal relations.

Petra did not give details. But the two leaders were expected to have discussed the situation in the Middle East region with particular focus on Iraq in the wake of recent developments that included the defection of high-ranking Iraqi officials.

King Hussein and Prince Sultan were also expected to have discussed setting a date for a meeting between the monarch and King Fahd, the impending visit of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Saudi participation in next week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Amman.

Also on Tuesday, King Hussein met with the head of the United Nations Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction Rolf Ekeus, who briefed him on his latest findings.

Mr. Ekeus stressed that Iraq's cooperation with the commission would enable the mission and alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

King Hussein also met with heads of Jewish groups in New York who voiced their appreciation and admiration for his leadership, vision and efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. The two meetings were attended by Prime Minister Shari Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

King Hussein also held talks with Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah Bin Khalifeb Al Thani and discussed with him the MENA summit.

The Qatari leader reaffirmed that his country was taking active part in the coming event. He paid tribute to Jordan's drive to achieve just and durable peace in the region.

The King also met with Deputy Prime Minister of Oman Fahd Ben Mohammad Al Saeed and discussed Jordanian-Omani relations and the peace process.

King Hussein received the presidents of Lithuania, the Philippines and the Danish prime minister and discussed Jordan's relations with their countries.

The Danish premier said that his government had decided to reschedule Jordan's debts to Denmark over a period of three years through the Paris Club in appreciation of Jordan's endeavours towards peace and its resumption of the development process in the country.

The King also met with the president of Tajikistan, who extended an invitation to the King to visit his country. He also expressed his country's appreciation of the King's role in the peace process.

King Hussein met also with the prime minister of the Netherlands, who discussed bilateral relations, noting that a Dutch embassy would be opened in Amman in early 1996.

On Monday evening, the King met with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and discussed pan-Arab affairs. The King and Her Majesty Queen Noor attended a reception hosted by President Bill Clinton.

The King also received Prince Sidi Mohammed, the crown prince of Morocco, who conveyed to the King greetings from King Hassan II. The King and the prince discussed the MENA conference.

'Agreement is not binding'

(Continued from page 1)

southern beach of Agaba. The approval of the ARA board and its consideration by the Cabinet was a precondition for the project.

In an interview with Al Ra'i, Mr. Jardaneh said the "cabinet" tended not to approve the contents of the letter of intent because the company does not meet all the necessary requirements for carrying out the project.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Al Khatib said the Makad

group, which showed interest in carrying out the project, was a well-known company.

Dr. Khasawneh also said the agreement was only letter of intent to set up the tourism investment project, adding that it was not binding and did not imply any financial obligations on any party. Dr. Khasawneh said the official government parties did not endorse the document, which only dealt with the mechanism for leasing the plot of land on which the project was to be established.

Qadhafi says he will continue expulsions

SIRTE, Libya (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Tuesday he would continue his expulsion of African workers from his country but added that "one day" they would return.

"Libya will not do without workers from neighbouring nations — Egypt, Sudan, Niger, Chad, Tunisia and Algeria. I think they will return one day but in a different way," Colonel Qadhafi told a press conference.

"Because of Libya's policy of open borders, they now work without permits or identification or medical check-ups, so diseases have spread," he said in his administrative capital Sirte, west of Tripoli.

"AIDS came to Libya carried by foreign workers, and there are 20 cases of cholera in Abjad because of foreign workers," he said.

Col. Qadhafi also told reporters he would make a declaration on Wednesday about the expulsion of Palestinians from his country "on the condition you publish honestly what I say today."

"The term expulsion which the colonialist media have used is a huge historical mistake. This is a return, not an expulsion, whether it is by their own will (the Palestinians) or against their will to push them to return," he said.

Col. Qadhafi began throwing out the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya in September, saying it was time for them to return to their homeland.

Meanwhile, the Arab League asked Col. Qadhafi to allow 1,000 Palestinians stranded on the Libyan border to return to their homes for three months.

Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league's secretary-general, urged Col. Qadhafi to rethink his decision to expel the Palestinians. After three months, Col. Qadhafi would then be free to deport them, he said.

"In the end, of course, it is Libya's decision because it is a sovereign state," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

Col. Qadhafi did not respond to the request, which follows repeated efforts by the Arab League and other Arab leaders to persuade him to end the expulsions.

Col. Qadhafi has said all 30,000 Palestinians in Libya, some of whom have lived there for decades, should leave in a campaign designed to demonstrate his opposition to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord.

The 1,000 Palestinians stranded for weeks in military tents on the Libyan-Egyptian border have complained of a lack of drinking water and food. U.N. officials say conditions have markedly worsened, and dozens of children are suffering from diarrhoea.

Another 600 Palestinians expelled by Libya and stranded off the island of Cyprus reached the Syrian port of Latakia on Monday after an 11-day ferry ordeal across the Mediterranean sea.

Most Arab countries, including Egypt, have refused the Palestinians entry because they lack travel documents.

The United Nations said on Tuesday it was sending survival goods for the Palestinians trapped in the no-man's land between Egypt and Libya.

A convoy of seven trucks carrying one-month's worth of food supplies, mineral water, blankets, clothing, soap and cooking utensils was due to arrive by mid-day at Al Saloum on the border.

"Conditions at the border have continued to deteriorate," a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told a news briefing in Geneva.

A Palestinian baby boy whose parents are among thousands being expelled by Libya died in a Libyan hospital shortly after his birth last Thursday, the agency revealed at the weekend.

Doctors attributed his death to the appalling conditions endured by the mother during the last weeks of her pregnancy. It was the first death reported among deportees since expulsions began in August.

"There are another 15 pregnant women in the camp who are now terrified about the possible fate of their own unborn children. Another 120 children are suffering from diarrhoea," the spokeswoman said.

Menem is told Israel not behind attack on Iranian

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured Argentine President Carlos Menem Monday that Israel had nothing to do with the shooting of an Iranian diplomat in Buenos Aires over the weekend.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Hassan Ali Rajabi Yazdi was shot in the chest at point-blank range by a man on a motorcycle Saturday as he was getting out of his car in front of his house.

The diplomat survived the attack, which Iran said was an act of terrorism by "Pro-Zionist elements."

"We still don't know if the attack was a robbery or an assassination attempt," Mr. Menem said after his meeting with Mr. Rabin.

Israel "rules out all responsibility" for the attack, Mr. Menem said.

"The case has to be treated with great care and we are investigating in depth," Mr. Menem said.

Irao's ambassador to Argentina was withdrawn last year in protest over allegations that Tehran was behind the bombing of a Jewish charity in Buenos Aires on July

18, 1994 that left 86 dead.

Two Argentines are in custody to that attack on suspicion of supplying the vehicle used in the car bombing.

In March 1992, 29 people were killed and more than 200 were wounded in a bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires that has never been solved.

Iranian newspapers blamed the shooting on Israel and the Iraq-based Mujahadeen-e-Khalq opposition group.

The Mujahadeen who denied the charge.

The English-language Tehran Times claimed the charge of affairs was shot in a joint-operation between Israel and the opposition group.

"The terrorist act is likely to be the outcome of an alignment between the terrorist Mujahadeen-e-Khalq organisation and Zionist terrorist groups."

It said there was a double reason for the shooting: "The Zionists have a vendetta against Iran, and, on the other hand, they try to follow the same strategy in disturbing Tehran-Buenos Aires relations."

Col. Qadhafi said he would continue his expulsion of African workers from his country but added that "one day" they would return.

"Libya will not do without workers from neighbouring nations — Egypt, Sudan, Niger, Chad, Tunisia and Algeria. I think they will return one day but in a different way," Colonel Qadhafi told a press conference.

"Because of Libya's policy of open borders, they now work without permits or identification or medical check-ups, so diseases have spread," he said in his administrative capital Sirte, west of Tripoli.

"AIDS came to Libya carried by foreign workers, and there are 20 cases of cholera in Abjad because of foreign workers," he said.

Col. Qadhafi also told reporters he would make a declaration on Wednesday about the expulsion of Palestinians from his country "on the condition you publish honestly what I say today."

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Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league's secretary-general, urged Col. Qadhafi to rethink his decision to expel the Palestinians. After three months, Col. Qadhafi would then be free to deport them, he said.

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"In the end, of course, it is Libya's decision because it is a sovereign state," Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

Col. Qadhafi did not respond to the request, which follows repeated efforts by the Arab League and other Arab leaders to persuade him to end the expulsions.

Col. Qadhafi said he would continue his expulsion of African workers from his country but added that "one day" they would return.

"Libya will not do without workers from neighbouring nations — Egypt, Sudan, Niger, Chad, Tunisia and Algeria. I think they will return one day but in a different way," Colonel Qadhafi told a press conference.

"Because of Libya's policy of open borders, they now work without permits or identification or medical check-ups, so diseases have spread," he said in his administrative capital Sirte, west of Tripoli.

"AIDS came to Libya carried by foreign workers, and there are 20 cases of cholera in Abjad because of foreign workers," he said.

Col. Qadhafi also told reporters he would make a declaration on Wednesday about the expulsion of Palestinians from his country "on the condition you publish honestly what I say today."

"The term expulsion which the colonialist media have used is a huge historical mistake. This is a return, not an expulsion, whether it is by their own will (the Palestinians) or against their will to push them to return," he said.

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Economy

Palestinian projects for Amman Economic Summit estimated at \$6b

By George Hishmeh
USIA staff writer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) hopes to attract an estimated \$6,000 million from investors or partners to fund projects in Palestine. Details of the possible projects will be available at the Oct. 29-31 Amman Economic Summit conference, authoritative Palestinian sources disclosed here Monday.

Projects for water, a sensitive issue between the Israelis and the Palestinians, will receive the lion's share, estimated to cost \$1,930,000, while agriculture receives the least attention, with \$50,300,000 in projects.

These projects were prepared by an inter-ministerial and private sector committee under the leadership of PECDAR.

A little more than 57 per cent of the Palestinian projects, which will be published in a "thick-volume," later this week, are specifically

identified for either the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. The remainder of the projects are described as "joint or unspecified," these Palestinian sources said. Joint projects are ones to be undertaken with any combination of the neighbouring states — Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

One of these projects, it was revealed, will be undertaken by Egypt, Israel and Palestinian Authority and calls for the construction of a highway linking Ashdod (Israel), Gaza and Ismailia (Egypt), where a "coastal river" is to be established in this southeastern Mediterranean area. The road is estimated to cost, according to Palestinians, about \$184 million.

The price tag for the projected road networks in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, these sources said, is \$1,000 million. Of that amount, \$961,000,000 will go to the Gaza Strip, a much smaller area than the West Bank.

There are, however, joint highway projects linking the

Palestinian areas with Jordan, Egypt and Israel and these are expected to cost an additional \$358,000,000.

Among the eye-catching projects which fall under the category "transportation & roads" is a road linking Gaza to Aqaba which has been estimated to cost \$350 million, and a "Middle East railroad" which will cost \$290 million.

The building of a seaport for Gaza will cost \$62,000,000 while an airport there will need \$75,000,000.

The "list of projects prepared for the Amman Economic Summit" and the cost estimates are as follows:

Transportation & railroads \$1,358,000,000
Power \$510,300,000
Water \$1,930,000,000
Environment \$618,600,000
Tourism \$203,800,000
Agriculture \$50,300,000
Export & industrialisation \$621,383,000
Other projects \$690,750,000
Total \$5,971,900,000

There has been apprehension voiced by various business leaders here over the movement of people and goods under the new agreement signed last month in Washington expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank.

Western diplomats here have been explaining to the Palestinian private sector that "a great opportunity will be missed" if the Palestinians were to absent themselves from the Amman summit, which is expected to be attended by more than 1,000 government and business leaders from 60 countries.

The Palestinian businessmen's concern stems from their fears that goods and people will not move freely within the West Bank or to the outside world under the new agreement with Israel.

Under the just-concluded agreement, there will be total Israeli pullout from the cities, except for Hebron, and redeployment among Palestinian villages. Movement within the Palestinian countryside will be monitored by Israeli security forces.

Israel to present 218 regional development options/projects to Amman summit

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The development options and projects which the government of Israel will present at the forthcoming Middle East and North Africa Summit (MENA) share one common feature — almost all are regional in outlook and will depend for their realisation on cooperation between at least two national governments.

Published in a large book under the title of "Development Options for Cooperation: The Middle East/East Mediterranean Region," the 218 options/projects focus on cooperation between Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Egypt, but also envisage the inclusion of countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states into the likes of regional electricity grids, transport networks and oil and gas pipeline systems.

The total investment needed for the implementation of all 218 projects would be \$24.7 billion.

"The projects are the result of one year of deliberations and negotiations between Israel and Jordan," the second secretary for press and cultural affairs of the Israeli Embassy in Amman, Shalom Turgeman, told the Jordan Times. "Initially, the projects were prepared by the Israeli government for presentation at the Casablanca summit. What you have now for the Amman summit is a renewed version of the projects which take into consideration the views of both Israel and Jordan."

According to Mr. Turgeman, the most important project to be presented at the Amman summit is the joint Israeli-Jordanian international airport in Aqaba, for which a feasibility study is being conducted by a subsidiary of the U.S. company Lockheed. "First results of the feasibility

study will be presented at the conference, which means that for those who want to invest in the airport, details will be available," Mr. Turgeman said.

Jordan and Israel have in principle agreed to expand the existing Jordanian airport in Aqaba by building an additional runway close to the border with Israel with some sections on Israeli territory. Cooperation in the use of the airfield would take the form of a common terminal complex, with the terminal divided into two sections — an Israeli and a Jordanian section, divided by an international passage. Management of the facility would be joined, as would be maintenance services and airport administration. International traffic to Eilat would be transferred to the new Jordanian-Israeli airport. According to figures published by the Israeli government, the project would require an estimated \$100 million in investment.

Feasibility studies are also under way on other projects, such as the Red Sea-Dead Sea canal, which would carry water from the Red Sea to replenish the fast-diminishing waters of the Dead Sea. But no other project is as likely to be implemented in the near future as the "Airport of Peace," Mr. Turgeman said.

The forward to the compilation of government proposals does not fail to point out that development options presented in the book are of a preliminary nature and only comprise an inventory of ideas for possible developments in the region which do, however, require further study, discussion and evaluation as well as approval by concerned parties.

The 218 development options and projects fall within the sectors of tourism (31 projects), water (28), transportation (22), telecommunications (22), public health (20), energy (18), logistics, trade and industry (16), environment (16), human resources (15), agriculture (13), combating desertification (12) and parks (5).

The tourism sector leads with 31 proposed development options and projects. Overall estimated investment figures reach \$2 billion. Projects include tourist attractions such as "The Lowest Park on Earth" around the Dead Sea, a Coral Reef Park in the Gulf of Aqaba, a Jordan Rift Valley Cultural Heritage Park, a South Eastern Mediterranean Riviera and a Sand Dune Park in Northern Sinai. All projects would require the setting up of transport and hotel infrastructure. A long-term goal would be to offer combined regional packages for sightseeing and touring, including Israel, Syria, Jordan, the PNA, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and offering historical, archaeological and religious attractions for Jewish, Christian and Muslim visitors.

In terms of geographical location, regional development options and projects focus on three main areas, the Jordan Rift Valley, the Gulf of Aqaba and the South Eastern Mediterranean coast between the Suez Canal in Egypt and Israel's southern coastal plains, including the coast of Gaza.

According to the MENA Summit programme released by the World Economic Forum, the joint regional projects to be presented at the summit by Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the PNA will

include a South East Mediterranean Riviera project, Gulf of Aqaba tourism development, Dead Sea tourism development, integration of electricity grids, gas pipelines, bridges and crossing points and the setting up of special economic zones. All of these projects are also mentioned among Israel's "Development Options for Cooperation."

Among the development options and projects most interesting for Jordan, which suffers from chronic water shortages, are the proposed Jordan Rift Valley water projects. These include the Adassia Diversion Dam on the Yarmouk River, which would increase the supply of water to the King Abdullah Canal, a water storage system on the Jordan River which would permit the storage of water for the dry summer months, and proposals for cooperation in water management, wastewater reclamation, desalination projects and surface and groundwater utilisation. The total estimated investment needed for the proposed projects is \$9 billion, according to Israeli government figures.

An important area for cooperation between Israel and Jordan identified in the book is the Dead Sea potash industry and the interconnection of Dead Sea logistics.

According to information released by the Israeli embassy Tuesday, attendance of the Amman summit has been confirmed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish and Planning and Economic Development Minister Yossi Ben-Jin. Eighty-one private businessmen have registered for the conference.

Saudi economy looks brighter, but woes persist

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's economy looks brighter than expected so far this year, but the oil giant's financial woes are far from over, economists and bankers here said.

They spoke of a general feeling of more confidence due to higher oil prices and a squeeze on spending, more liquidity and less gloom in the business community.

But Saudi leaders cannot relax yet, they cautioned. They still have to keep a tight grip on spending, repay billions of dollars in local debt and raise funding for huge projects like a \$6 billion deal to buy U.S. planes.

"The economy is better than we all thought at the beginning of the year," one Saudi-based economist said. "It is not out of the woods, it is not very bright, but it is better than expected."

"It is a combination of several factors — better oil prices, a generally better level of confidence and a slight improvement in the stock market," he added.

Even the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to recognise the relative improvement in the financial health of the kingdom this month after two years of highlighting its deficit problems.

"The IMF is expected to give it a reasonably good write-up," one banker said. "The IMF team was in Saudi in May and June when the price of oil was at its highest this year."

"Saudi has been benefiting from higher oil prices and there is talk the budget might be in balance this year because of that," another banker said. "There is less gloom around than six months ago and a lighter feel about the business environment."

Economists and bankers said the government was sticking to its budget. They expected the new cabinet to inject more vigour into the economy and help business pick up now that the summer holidays are over.

Saudi oil revenues are rising because of higher prices, earning it an estimated \$2.5 billion more than forecast in

the budget, which projects state oil receipts of \$33 billion this year out of a total \$36 billion income.

Saudi Arabia, suffering cash-flow shortages due to weak oil prices in the past two years and the cost of the 1991 Gulf war, in January announced a \$40 billion budget for 1995, cutting spending by six per cent and forecasting a \$4 billion deficit.

The economists and bankers said official data on economic performance so far this year was not available, but they saw positive signs in monetary figures issued by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency for the first-quarter of 1995.

The figures showed Saudi Arabia's broadest measure of money supply, M3, rising by 1.7 per cent in the first-quarter. This compared with a 0.1 per cent rise in the first-quarter of 1994.

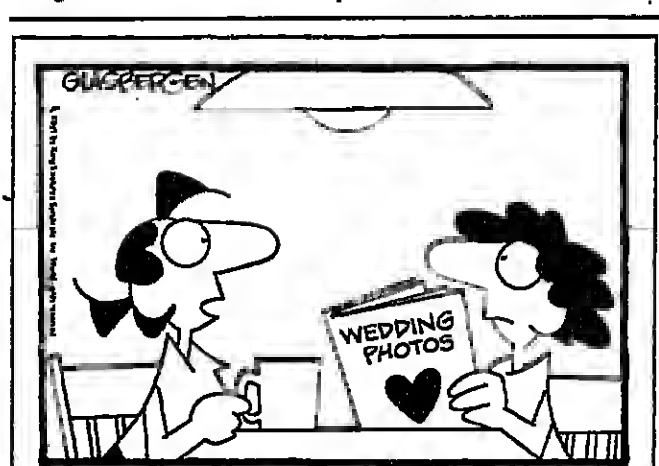
The 1995-2000 development plan targets an average annual real economic growth rate of 3.8 per cent, which bankers said was the same as

actual average growth from 1990-1995.

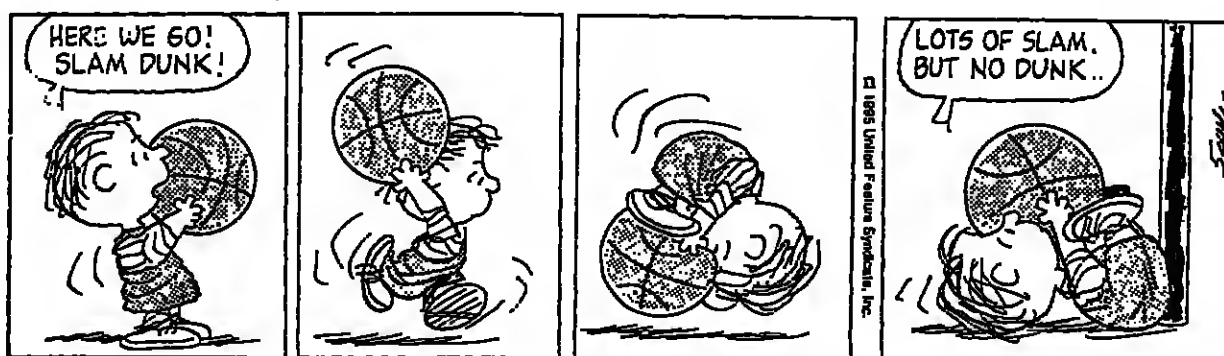
Saudi Arabia this year repaid all its foreign debt but it still has to meet estimated local debt of more than \$20 billion to banks and billions of riyals in arrears to contractors. It has already paid about a third of the estimated \$5 billion debt to contractors mainly through issuing special bonds.

"It does not look like there will be another bond issue or an international loan," one banker said.

The bankers and economists said there was talk of new projects coming up, but not much was expected to happen until existing ones in telephones and power got off the ground.



Peanuts



Andy Cap



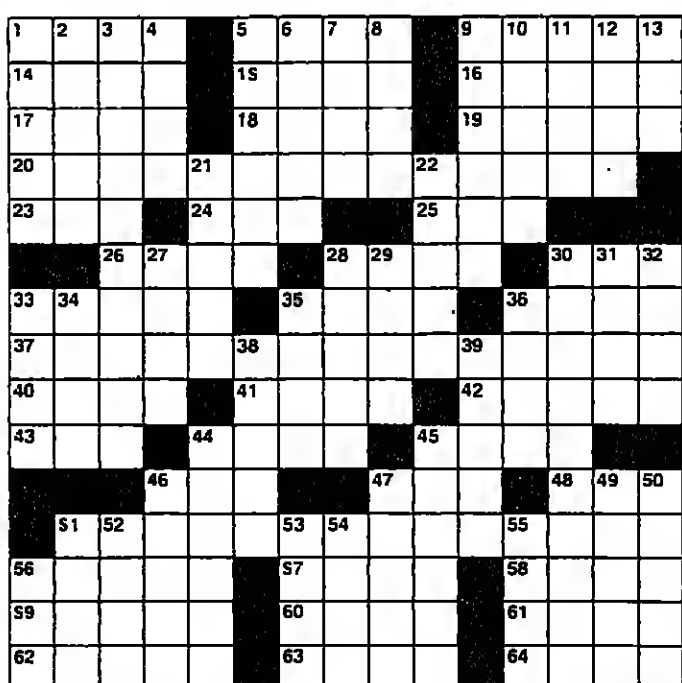
Mutt'n'Jeff



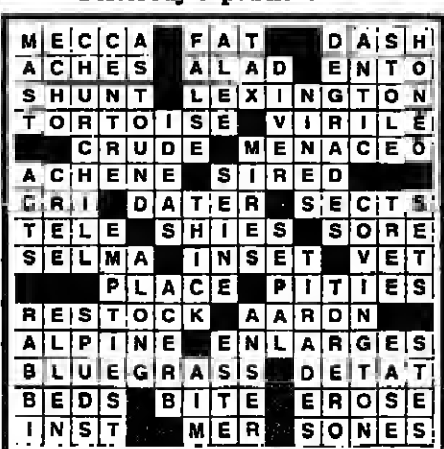
THE Daily Crossword by Lyell Rodieck

ACROSS

- Rose or Orange, for example
- Pouches
- Zones
- Diamond Head
- Pale
- Puccini work
- Redding of music
- Afterward
- Paramour
- What a traveler
- carries
- "I saw Elba"
- Tub
- Spot on a peacock's
- feather
- Encase
- for All
- Seasons
- Troy NY sch.
- Sedale
- Iniquity
- Mousses
- What a pirate
- carries
- Nol windward
- Act — (pretend)
- Chisel
- Mal de —
- Imitated
- Astrologers
- Baba
- Blackjack
- German spa
- Whom CBS
- carries
- Marie or Pierre
- Stench
- Hardo
- NY city
- Burt's ex
- One: pref.
- Blueprints
- NYSE rival
- Kind of school



Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- #### DOWN
- British mathematician
 - Western
 - Dangerous rapids in D.C.?
 - Craving

- Persian ruler
- "— in the Dark"
- Chief cook
- In — (simultaneous)
- Anne —
- Lytic poem
- Son of Jacob
- Allowance for waste
- Patrician gp.
- Escape
- Sphere
- Ceremony
- Shun
- Petty quarrel
- a "Heavyweight" (film)
- Worn-out horse
- Golchal
- Bridge coup
- Before vision or graph
- Abstract being
- Sailor's drink
- Kind of transit
- Wide open
- E.T. and Alf
- Mold
- Birdlike
- Gem
- French river
- Nose
- Boring
- Length times width
- Monlez or Falana
- Biblical land
- Highway sight
- Steal

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson
Astrologer: Carroll Richter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't disagree with anyone at home during the daytime today and in the evening. Enjoy only pleasures which are not costly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think before you speak even one sarcastic word to a partner during the daytime today and in the evening or there could be a great disagreement developing.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Find ways of economising during the daytime today, and cut down on expenses. Study your books or records for accuracy and make out the necessary reports.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be conscientious to those who are close to you. Get your appearance improved before you go out socially. Adopt a kinder attitude toward your friends.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have plans which require practical methods in order to make them a success in the daytime today, but in the evening, you see how to gain more prosperity.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is not a good day today to ask a pal for assistance concerning an interest which means much to you, so bide your time until a more appropriate moment. Be patient.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't attempt to force any issues in business or personal life today. Avoid an influential person who is apt to be on the warpath.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep promises you have made to your loved ones and don't go off on any foolish tangents. Avoid the limelight this evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to go over accounts and be certain they are correct and accurate today, whether financial obligations of collections are to be made.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't let an emotional associate confuse you today, and later tonight forget all about business affairs which must be dealt with.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get business activities handled which you have promised to accomplish today, and don't try to make any changes. Listen to the ideas of a blusterer tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is not a day to get into pleasures which you know little about, so accomplish your assignments during the daytime and rest up tonight.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

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For Rent

Kankkunen takes the lead in Catalunya rally

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Finnish driver Juha Kankkunen grabbed the lead Monday in the rally of Catalunya after the first stage of the three-day road race.

Kankkunen, leading the world rally championship tour, completed the asphalt Catalunya course in one hour, 45 minutes and 13 seconds.

Driving a Toyota Celica, Kankkunen's performance Monday in the Catalunya race, the second to last rally of the tour, showed that the 1995 tour leader may be poised to win his fifth world championship.

Kankkunen is the current tour leader with 62 points. Spaniard Carlos Sainz, driving a Subaru Impreza, finished second, 22 seconds behind Kankkunen.

Third place went to Kankkunen's teammate Armin Schwarz of Germany who completed the first stages' nine special sections — 162.24 kilometres — 38 seconds off the lead.

The three-day rally will wind through Spain's north-eastern region of Catalunya covering almost 1,700 kilometres, focused on 23 high-speed timed stages totalling 475 kilometres.

In total, the drivers will compete in 23 special stages. The second and third legs of the rally will be held Tuesday and Wednesday.



Juha Kankkunen in his Toyota Celica (AFP photo)

More than 80 drivers from 15 countries are competing in the race.

The rally of Catalunya is the seventh round of the world rally championship.

The final race is Britain's network O Rac Rally to be held November 19th to 22nd.

Following Kankkunen in the world rally championship standings is Britain Colin

McRae with 55 points, and reigning champion Didier Auriol with 51 points.

Arena to be appointed U.S. Olympic soccer coach

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bruce Arena, who guided Virginia to four consecutive men's national Collegiate Athletic Association Championships, is set Tuesday to be appointed coach of the 1996 U.S. Olympic soccer team.

The U.S. Soccer Federation has scheduled a news conference at RFK Stadium, one of the sites for next year's Olympic tournament. Arena, whose appointment has been well known in the soccer community, is to hold a press conference later in the day. Arena took over at Virginia in 1978 and has compiled

a record of 287-57-32 in 17-plus seasons. Virginia won its first NCAA title in 1989, lost in the quarterfinals the following year and has won the title every year since. Last season, the Cavaliers beat Indiana 1-0 for the championship.

Arena's programme has produced 26 all-Americans and several national players of the year, including Tony Meola, the goalkeeper on the 1994 U.S. World Cup team, and World Cup team midfielders John Harkes (1990, 1994) and Claudio Reyna (1994).

Nigeria invites FIFA to explain cancellation

LAGOS (R) — A FIFA delegation, headed by President Joao Havelange, is to visit Nigeria to explain why world soccer's ruling body cancelled the staging of the World Youth Tournament in the country earlier this year.

Nigerian Sports Minister Jim Nwobodo said at a news conference on Monday that the FIFA team will arrive in Nigeria on November 7 in response to an invitation from the military government.

They will hold discussions with military ruler General

Sani Abacha and the relevant sports bodies.

Mr. Nwobodo also told reporters that the FIFA officials will assess the facilities provided by Nigeria for the cancelled tournament and the large sums of money spent.

Despite protests from the Nigerian authorities, FIFA cancelled the tournament scheduled for March because of health fears, saying there were outbreaks of meningitis and cholera at two of the venues, and for security reasons.

S. Korea World Cup chief blasts FIFA over TV rights secrecy

SEOUL (AFP) — The head of South Korea's 2002 World Cup bid has attacked FIFA for being secretive over TV rights negotiations and accused the international body of undervaluing the event.

Chung Mong-Chun said the negotiations for the multi-million pound deal should be brought out into the open.

The industrialist, who has led South Korea's aggressive battle with Japan to stage the Asia's first World Cup finals, also slammed what he saw as the undervaluation of the TV rights.

Chung said talk of a \$1 billion bid for the 2002 rights was nonsense and should be doubled to \$2 billion.

Historically the process and decision making on the marketing and TV rights contracts has been handled by very few people behind closed doors.

Chung said this must change and "more trans-

parency is needed." He said FIFA committees must become more involved in the dealing. "I do not propose a burdensome bureaucracy, but more people do need to be involved if we are to achieve greater transparency," Chung told a meeting of the international sports writers association (AIPS).

"Greater transparency is essential because the World Cup has been financially undervalued. That will also change."

There has already been talk of a \$2 billion bid for the marketing and TV rights of the 2002 World Cup. My understanding is that we should aim for twice that amount," he said, pointing out that this would be 20 times the figure for the 1994 finals in the United States.

FIFA president Joao Havelange was not among the world sports leaders listening to Chung at the meeting held under the aegis

of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations' (GAISF) annual meeting.

Havelange is staying away from the GAISF meeting in Seoul to avoid the lobby battle between South Korea and Japan.

But a FIFA spokesman in Zurich said they had already started opening up decision-making for marketing and broadcasting rights.

A working group comprising the general secretaries of all the confederations was set up last month to study this issue," she said.

Chung also repeated an offer to FIFA that if South Korea was selected next year to be the 2002 hosts it would hand over profits to the world body and soccer-playing nations.

He said that based on the current budget the donation should be \$78 million, but he was confident it could reach \$300 million.

Boxing claims 20th Filipino victim

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — In the latest tragedy to hit local boxing, a 19-year-old bantamweight died shortly after losing a fight in a southern province, newspapers reported Monday.

Ervin Corpuz collapsed and never recovered after getting badly battered in the final round of a 10-round bout late Saturday with 18-year-old Allan Ilaneta in Polomolok, south Cotabato, 1,024 kilometres southeast of Manila.

Corpuz, ranked No. 12 by the Philippine Boxing Federation, reportedly died of brain hemorrhage.

The reports said he repeatedly signalled that he wanted to quit during the last two rounds but his aides ignored him as the crowd chanted "no surrender."

Corpuz was the 20th local boxer to die after a fight since 1979 and the second this month.

On Oct. 15, junior flyweight Restituto Espinilla, 19, died of massive brain

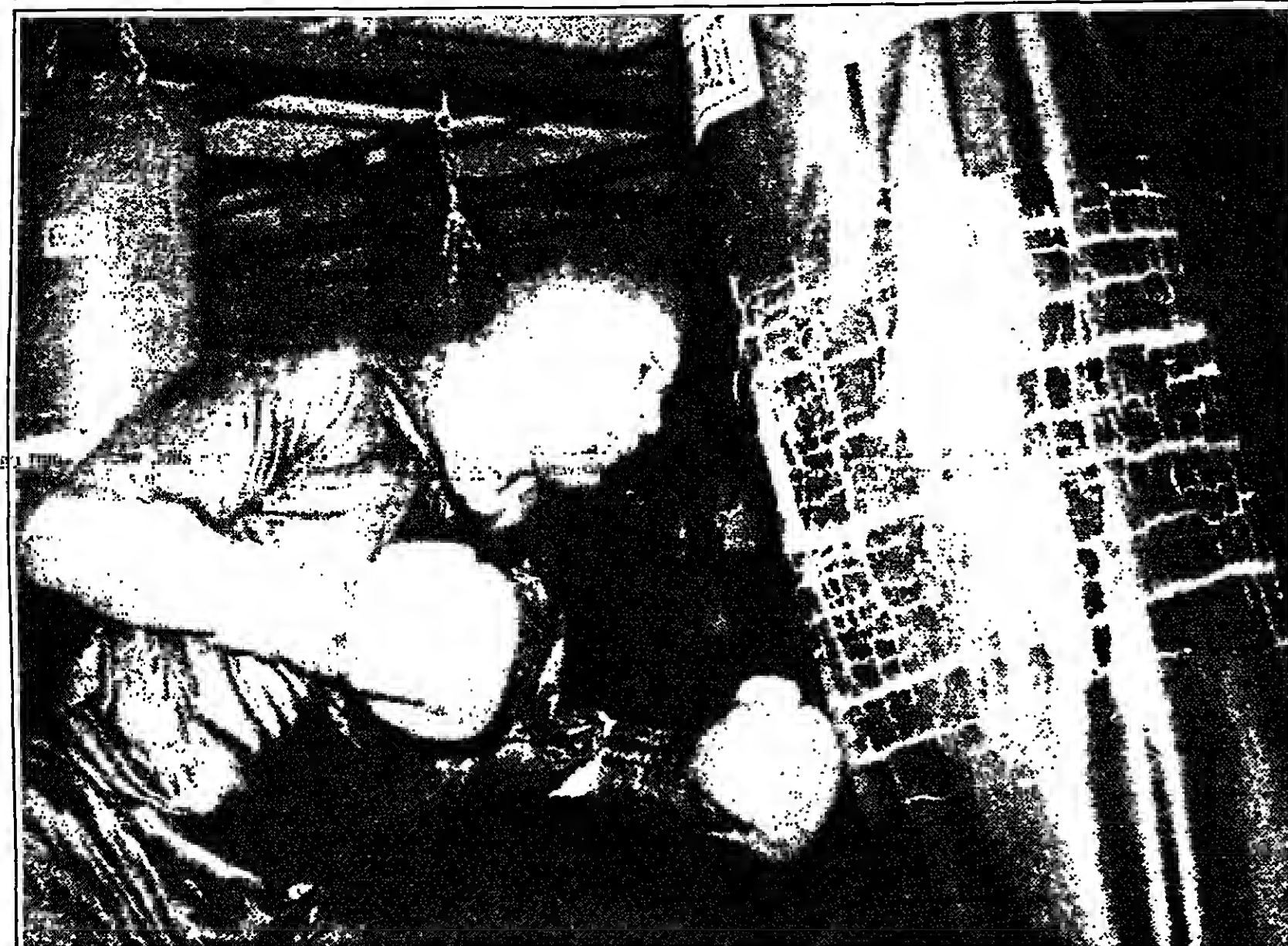
hemorrhage two days after losing a 10-round fight with Marlon Carillo in suburban Paranaque.

Espinilla's death prompted one member of the Manila City Council to propose a ban on both amateur and professional boxing in the capital, saying it is a "barbaric sport."

Local ring expert and sports columnist Joaquin

Henson blamed the high incidence of boxing-related deaths and injuries to negligent sports officials, who allow mismatches.

He said Espinilla, who won only two of 12 fights, should never have been pitted against Carillo, ranked No. 3 by the Philippine Games and Amusements Board and holder of a 19-8-2 record; 10 of which he won by knockout.



Buster Mathis of Grand Rapids, Michigan pounds the heavybag at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, New York as he trains for his November 4 bout with Mike Tyson (Reuters photo)

U.N.-Rwanda match ends in chaos

KIGALI (R) — A soccer match between Ghanaian U.N. troops and a Rwandan team to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations ended in chaos on Sunday with fistfights between the referee and rival teams, witnesses said on Monday.

U.N. officials said minor violence erupted when the Rwandan referee awarded a penalty after Ghanaian

peacekeepers tackled an attacker from the Rwandan team Circle Sportive, which was leading 3-1.

Tension at a Kigali Stadium increased when the referee sent off Ghana's goalkeeper for handling the ball outside his area.

The Ghanaian were furious, the goalkeeper took a swing at the referee and members of both teams started fighting in the middle

of the pitch before the 250 Rwandan spectators joined in the melee.

Spectators, Rwandan and Ghanaian players started attacking each other. A group of Rwandans even tried unsuccessfully to wrestle away the gun of a Rwanda Patriotic Army soldier watching the game.

U.N. officials tried to play down the problem, which marred three days of celebra-

tions organised by the U.N. assistance mission in Rwanda of the U.N. anniversary with the focus on fun and sports.

"There was a bit of a scuffle and pushing and shoving. If this was any other game in Britain, no one would care about it," said a U.N. official, who declined to be identified.

The game was abandoned

after U.N. troops intervened. The Ghanaian team was disqualified from the tournament and the Rwandan team qualified for Tuesday's final, officials added.

Up to one million minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates were slaughtered in last year's genocide in Rwanda during which the U.N. Security Council cut the U.N. force to a bare minimum.

Five Europeans scale Himalayan mountain

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Five mountaineers from Europe have scaled a Himalayan peak, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry said Monday.

The four Frenchmen and an Austrian climbed Mount Amadablam, a 6,812-metre high peak last week, it said

quoting delayed reports from the base camp.

The French Amadablam expedition was led by Gilles Marcaud, a 33-year-old mountain guide from Chamoin and Philippe Raymond, a 39-year-old doctor from Livry Gargan. They reached the summit on Tuesday, the

ministry said.

Two more members of the five-member team to reach the summit are Helene Chastagnol, a 32-year-old nurse from Rocoz and Xavier Chastagnol, a 30-year-old marketing officer from Monastere. They reached the top of the peak on Friday with a

Nepalese guide Dawa Sherpa.

Similarly, the leader of the five-member Austrian Amadablam expedition, Peter Habeler, a 53-year-old mountain guide from Mayrhofen, climbed the peak from the southwest ridge on Friday, it

said in a statement.

Habeler established Camp 1 at an altitude of 5,700 metres on October 16 from where he started his final assault.

The names of the other expedition members were not available.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSHI
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

484 7A K Q 7 5 2 0 A Q 4 5 5

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

Pass Pass 7

What is your opening bid?

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

484 7A K Q 7 5 2 0 A Q 4 5 5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

10 Pass 10 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

473 0 7 5 2 0 K 5 7 A K Q 1 0 3

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

Pass Pass 10 Pass

What do you bid now?

What action do you take?

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

453 0 7 4 0 1 0 7 5 A A K J 5

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

4Q 10 6 0 K 10 5 2 0 Q 10 3 A A Q 7

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

10 Pass 10 Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4J 10 0 A J 10 5 4 A Q 3 5 5 5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

Pass Pass 10 Pass

What do you bid now?

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Sports

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ma teenager tricks Wang

BEIJING (AFP) — Controversial athletics coach Ma Junren turned the tables on his former star Wang Jundao Tuesday when his latest running prodigy, 15-year-old Jiang Po, scored an emphatic win over the double world record-holder. Jiang set an Asian record of 14min 45.90sec for 5,000m as she beat the 22-year-old Wang, record-holder at 3,000m and 10,000m, by seven seconds at the Inter-City Games in Nanjing. Jiang, who has been coached by Ma for a year, ran the fourth-fastest 5,000m this year, nine seconds outside the world record of Portugal's Fernanda Ribeiro. Wang and most of Ma's other star runners, known as his Army, deserted the coach's Liaoning barracks last year after complaining about his Spartan training methods and claiming he refused to share out prize money. She completed a 5,000m-10,000m double at the Asian championships in Jakarta last month and gets a chance of revenge when she races against Jiang at 10,000m on Thursday. Former world record holder Sun Caiyun cleared an Asian record 4.18m in the women's pole vault, the second-best ever and 3cm below the world record of Daniela Bartova of the Czech Republic.

Boardman beats Obree

PARIS (AFP) — Olympic champion Chris Boardman narrowly defeated Graeme Obree in a four kilometre pursuit opposing the two Britons at the Bercy Sports Arena Monday. Boardman finished in 4 minutes 39.82 seconds, 1.71 seconds clear of Obree, who was forced to change bikes shortly before the race got underway. The reigning world champion and record holder eventually borrowed a bicycle from the Italian team competing in the Nations Cycling Open.

Icelandic striker headed for France

SOCHAUX, France (AFP) — French second division side Sochaux said Monday they had signed Iceland's international striker Arnar Gunnlaugsson. Gunnlaugsson, who has had stints with Nuremberg of Germany and Feyenoord of the Netherlands, has scored 15 goals in seven games for his current side Arkanes in the Icelandic first division this season.

Inter fly Cantona kite

LONDON (AFP) — Inter Milan's new English coach Roy Hodgson has reopened attempts to sign Manchester United's French star Eric Cantona, it was reported here Tuesday. "We will be going after Eric Cantona," the former Swiss national coach who took over at Inter last week told the Daily Mirror. Cantona was rated at £7 million (\$11.2 million). Inter have little time to push through their bid as the Italian transfer market reopens for just five days at the start of November. Cantona was suspended for eight months and sentenced to 120 hours community service in January after jumping into crowd and attacking a fan who was taunting him at a match in London against Crystal Palace. There was much speculation during his suspension he would go to Inter, who had also bought his United team-mate Paul Ince, but he returned to Manchester against Liverpool on Oct. 1, setting up the first and scoring the equaliser in a 2-2 draw. He played a big part in United's 4-1 win at Chelsea on Saturday and it is difficult to see United manager Alex Ferguson, who has stuck by his wayward French star through thick and thin, letting him go.

Costa downs Arrese in Hellmann's Cup

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Second seed Alberto Costa defeated fellow Spaniard Jordi Arrese 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) in the first round of the Hellmann's Cup. Fourth seed Francisco Claver of Spain, who advanced to the finals of the clay court tournament last year, fell Monday to Brazilian qualifier Jaime Oncins 6-3, 6-2. The other seeded player ousted was No. 6 Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic, who fell to France's Fabrice Santoro, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. Gilbert Schaller, the tournament's top seed, meets Fernando Meligeni on Tuesday.

Official asks for street name to be changed

LANDSHUT, Germany (AFP) — An assistant mayor of this Bavarian town proposed Monday that its "Steffi Graf Street" should be renamed because of the tax evasion scandal surrounding the world tennis champion. Werner Zwing, elected on an independent list, proposed the street be renamed after the celebrated German boxer Max Schmeling "who at least contributed something with his life." "With the best will, I cannot imagine that Steffi Graf did not know what her father was doing with her money. Such sports figures are no example to the youth," Zwing said. The Landshut town council decided in 1988 to name a stretch of road leading to some tennis courts after Steffi Graf, then aged 18, on the basis that she began her career there.

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Agassi bids to end season with a flourish

ESSEN, Germany (R) — American world No. 1 Andre Agassi has arrived in Europe determined to take his tennis career to new heights in the next month.

The 25-year-old from Las Vegas said on Monday that he wanted to top the rankings at the end of a season for the first time after the current Essen Open and the forthcoming world championship in Frankfurt.

Agassi, who finished last season in second spot, looked lean and fit enough to achieve his goal as he prepared for the high quality Essen event.

He is seeded to meet his main rival and fellow American Pete Sampras in the final of the \$1.8 million tournament, which has attracted all the world top 10 players.

"This fall is a critical time for me," said Agassi. "I hope to finish the year as number one. A major factor will be whoever plays well here."

After playing a rare doubles match on Tuesday, Agassi — given a first round bye — will begin his campaign on Wednesday in a second-round clash with

Dutchman Jacco Eltingh, who cruised past German Bernd Karbacher 6-2, 6-4 in Monday's first round.

The match will mark the American's first appearance on the ATP Tour since he lost to Sampras in the final of the U.S. Open in September.

"Of course I like to play when he plays. He's a player I like to beat," added Agassi.

Agassi, Sampras, Austrian Thomas Muster and American Michael Chang are the only four players to have secured their places for the round-robin Frankfurt Championship, which brings together the top eight players in the world.

With four more places at stake, many of the top stars have come to Essen in the hope of picking up the vital points for qualification.

Germany's former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, the world No. 4, will start his bid on Tuesday with a second-round match against Magnus Gustafsson.

The Swede advanced to the second round with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over American Aaron Krichstein on Monday.



Andre Agassi

Juninho granted work permit

MIDDLESBROUGH, England (R) — Brazilian star Juninho was granted a British work permit on Monday and is expected to make his debut for English premier league Middlesbrough at Manchester United on Saturday.

After being treated to a carnival welcome — complete with a 50-piece Samba band — by over 4,000 Middlesbrough fans last week, Juninho returned to Brazil to wait for the permit to be issued by the British government.

"All that remains is for Middlesbrough to obtain international clearance, which will involve negotiations between them and the Brazilian (soccer) Federation," said

Riverside Stadium.

Rebuilding work at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground has restricted space for visiting supporters.

Robson had been anxiously waiting for news of the work permit and earlier on Monday said Juninho would need to be back in Britain by Wednesday morning to have any chance of facing United.

"Juninho would need to get a good night's sleep to recover from jet-lag and train with the rest of the lads on Thursday and Friday," said Robson.

"To be fair to the kid, he cannot just get off a plane on Thursday and be ready for such a big game."

King's former accountant testifies

NEW YORK (AP) — Don King's income tripled to \$60 million after he took to the ring-boxing heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, but the boxing promoter still would not let his employees sign checks for as little as five cents, his former accountant testified.

Joseph Maffia took the stand Monday as a key witness in the government's attempt to convince a jury that King faked a contract in 1981 to collect \$350,000 from Lloyd's of London after a fight was cancelled.

The former controller for King from 1986 to 1991 testified that King's company, Don King Productions, had annual gross income of between \$10 million and \$20 million before Tyson came aboard in 1986.

He said the annual revenues grew to as much as \$60 million with the arrival of Tyson and the emergence of pay-per-view television. Maffia said King was pleased about that.

"He told me once you were only as good as how much cash you have," Maffia said.

The accountant said King refused his suggestions that the flamboyant promoter allow himself or one other employee to sign small checks without his approval.

"He said, 'no,'" Maffia recalled.

With that, Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul G. Gadephe showed jurors 21 checks ranging in value from five cents to \$62.22 that had been signed by King.

But it was not just small amounts that King cared about, Maffia testified in Federal Court in Manhattan.

The accountant said King once reduced his bonus from \$1,000 to \$700 after Maffia filed a financial document one day late, costing King \$300 in interest. And he said King, one of the most powerful men in boxing, "was livid" after an insurance company delayed paying \$400,000 for a cancelled Tyson bout.

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Tapie back in court to avoid prison

DOUAI (AFP) — Bernard Tapie went back to court on Tuesday to try to avoid going to prison for masterminding the Olympique Marseille match-fixing scandal.

Tapie has appealed against his two-year prison sentence, one year suspended, for ordering his General Manager Jean-Pierre Bernes to offer three Valenciennes players 250,000 francs (\$50,000) each to throw a match in 1993.

Marseille won the game 1-0 to clinch their fifth successive league title and five days later became the first French club to win the European Cup with a Basile Boli header against AC Milan in Munich.

Marseille were banned from defending the European Cup and later demoted to the French Second Division for financial irregularities, for which Tapie is expected to be tried at the beginning of next year.

Grand squad investigators have reportedly uncovered that 110 million francs (\$22 million) were siphoned off from 1986 to 1993, either to buy matches or referees or for personal gain.

Tapie, declared bankrupt, is accused of setting up a network of front companies which were paid for fictitious services, or used for diverting television broadcasting rights, advertising revenue and transfer money.

In one case Marseille reportedly paid a Portuguese agent 2.5 million francs (\$500,000) to try to sign the Brazilian World Cup star Bebeto. Nothing came of the move and the then coach Gerard Gili said as far as he knew they never had any intention of signing the player.

UEFA were planning to reopen inquiries into allegations that corruption by Marseille officials was even



Bernard Tapie

more widespread than at first reported.

Bernes claimed in July the club had spent five million to six million francs (about one million dollars) a year bribing players and referees for both French league and European Cup matches.

Marseille, with debts of 400 million francs (\$80 million), are in the hands of the receivers and only 12th in the second division. They won the division last year but promotion was blocked because of their financial position.

Judgement was reserved to November 28.

of parliament who perjured himself by giving Tapie a false alibi, went to court on Monday to appeal against a suspended six month jail sentence and ban on holding public office for two years for interfering with witnesses.

He allegedly tried to force his secretary to confirm he met Tapie at a time the former Marseille owner was trying to convince the then Valenciennes coach, Boro Primorac, to confess to being behind the attempted match-fixing.

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Yeltsin, Clinton leave key NATO issues unresolved

NEW YORK (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin, at a summit that offered harmony but little substance, has managed to keep relations with the United States on track despite not giving an inch in key disputes.

Mr. Yeltsin ended a three-day trip to the United States on Monday jostling with President Bill Clinton as they trumpeted an agreement that obliges them to work together to end the conflict in Bosnia but leaves two open wounds festering.

They failed to agree on terms for Russia to join a peacekeeping force in Bosnia and barely even touched on North Atlantic Treaty Organisation plans to expand in Eastern Europe.

"It is still the Russian position, there should be no mistake about it, that President Yeltsin does not feel that Russian troops should be under NATO command," a U.S. aide said.

Instead, the presidents appeared to agree to differ for now in the two key disputes to prevent ties from deteriorating further and to help Mr. Yeltsin in his battle against nationalists who say Russia's foreign policy is not assertive enough.

"This looks like an agreement for two presidents facing elections," a source close to the Russian delegation said.

Both Mr. Clinton's and Mr. Yeltsin's terms in office

expire next year and further straits in Russian-U.S. relations are widely thought to be in neither's favour.

"The main aim of summits these days is simply to prevent relations getting worse," Alexander Golts, a political commentator with the Russian Defence Ministry newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda, told Reuters.

A Western diplomat added: "Both presidents want a success and want to go home saying something positive about this summit. They cannot afford to let it fail."

Both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin painted a rosy picture of relations between the two countries after the summit held north of New York City, belying fears that it would be a failure.

But to achieve this harmony, Mr. Clinton turned a deaf ear to the repeated attacks on NATO that Mr. Yeltsin has made in the last week — including a hard-hitting speech at the United Nations 50th anniversary celebrations on Sunday.

Mr. Clinton's refusal to respond to the attacks allowed Mr. Yeltsin to look strong at the largest-ever gathering of world leaders — a perfect way for the Kremlin leader to prove to nationalists that he is defending Russia's interests.

In Sunday's speech, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would join the international peacekeeping force planned

for Bosnia once peace is restored but only if it is under a strict U.N. Security Council mandate.

This directly contradicted Washington's demand that the force be under NATO's control, and U.S. aides made clear Mr. Yeltsin had not dropped his opposition despite his and Mr. Clinton's "complete agreement" on Bosnia.

Mr. Yeltsin, who visited Paris before arriving in New York, was also boosted by support from France.

President Jacques Chirac urged Mr. Clinton to involve Russia more fully in diplomatic and military efforts to end the conflict in Bosnia, his spokeswoman said.

Mr. Chirac also suggested a wider conference on stability in the Balkans could be held in Moscow early next year.

Throughout the three-day trip to the United States, Mr. Yeltsin, 64, looked at ease rubbing shoulders with the world's leaders and showed no signs of health problems following the mild heart attack he suffered last July.

He may have raised eyebrows with a flamboyant performance at a joint news conference with Mr. Clinton after their summit, but there was no doubting his satisfaction with the summit.

"When I arrived in the United States, I did not have the degree of optimism with which I am leaving," he said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath on Tuesday cuts a cake marking the anniversary of the United Nations in a ceremony attended by senior government officials and United Nations representatives (photo by Boghos)

Amman U.N. celebrations highlight need for basic reforms at world organisation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In sharp contradiction to the United Nations' 50th anniversary celebrations held in New York, which witnessed the largest gathering of world leaders in history, Amman's tribute to the world body was modest, gathering some 200 representatives of the Jordanian government, members of the diplomatic corps and employees of U.N. agencies in Jordan. It seemed in keeping with the mood of those addressing the audience.

"A purely self-congratulatory event is most certainly not called for," said Jorgen Lissner, U.N. resident coordinator and U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Jordan.

Instead, Mr. Lissner said, the U.N. should take the opportunity to express appreciation and gratitude to member nations for making the institution possible during "half a century of unprecedented progress and unprecedented turmoil."

Jordan's contribution has come in dollars, dinars, manpower and military support for peacekeeping forces, Mr. Lissner said, praising the Kingdom for its "staunch

support" for the U.N.

Mr. Lissner was joined in addressing the audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Dr. Haem Beblawi, under-secretary general of the U.N. and executive secretary of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCSA).

They joined their Western counterparts in calling for organisational reform within the world's premier international organisation, and reminded their audience that the United Nations is facing a turning point as it enters its second half century.

"Today as we look at the performance of the United Nations in many parts of the world, we cannot but note the distance between the high moral ideals expressed in the preamble of the Charter (of the United Nations) and the reality of civil and inter-state wars, the practice of ethnic and religious exclusion or 'cleansing'... the widening gap between rich and poor, and the lack of political will on the part of those who have the power and means to address root causes," the Crown Prince said.

"The fault lies not with the organisation," the Regent pointed out, "but with ourselves. For the United Nations is nothing more than a mechanism to express our collective international personality."

Today, the U.N. faces its worst-ever financial crisis, largely accounted for by nearly \$2.5 billion in overdue budget assessments from member states. In addition to this "strain," said Mr. Lissner, the organisation is further burdened by "unrealistic expectations" from those who "dream of a benevolent world government" and who hope that "(the U.N.) can put an end to man's inhumanity to man."

"Another source of strain is the narrow-minded and ethnocentric criticism by (those) who see global pluralism as a threat rather than as a tremendous asset for human kind," said Mr. Lissner.

A third source of strain is, indeed, the very real shortcomings of the many entities that make up the United Nations family of organisation.

"The situation calls for reflection... reform... and re-education," said Mr. Lissner.

Dr. Al Behlawi, who earlier this week frankly described the shortcomings plaguing the U.N. reminded his audience that the United Nations must "...in all humility, acknowledge our strengths."

"The prime strength of the U.N. is its legitimacy," he pointed out. "No other organisation possesses comparable legitimacy. (The U.N.) is recognised as a competent, professional body. These are valuable assets to be taken into account at the outset of any reconsideration of the role of the U.N."

Underscoring the role the U.N. has historically played in the Middle East, he added that any regional peace and economic cooperation would be consolidated by regional institutions. "The U.N. is irreplaceable in our part of the world," he said.

During the assembly, the United Nations and Crown Prince Hassan honoured the families of five Jordanian peacekeepers who died during active duty — Warrant Officer Mohammad Al Amawi, Sergeant Major Hamed Mefarreh, Sergeant Major Ismail Ibrahim, Sergeant Saleh Al Zawahreh, and Corporal Self Al Rawashdeh.

"Each of the five peacekeepers from Jordan who lost his wife while on duty is truly a 'shaheed' of the global community," Mr. Lissner said, expressing gratitude on behalf of the United Nations to Jordanian military men died serving in U.N. peacekeeping forces.

Thatcher celebrates 70th birthday, again

WASHINGTON (AP) — Philip Morris underwrote the bash, but 600 or so guests still forked over \$1,000 each for Monday night's third and final party to celebrate Margaret Thatcher's 70th birthday at Washington's Cavernous, Union Station. The guest list included politicians, actors, socialites and select members of Washington's news media. Rep. Newt Gingrich, Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, and Sen. Phil Gramm, a candidate for the Republican Party's nomination in next year's presidential election, were invited. So was actor Charlton Heston, a champion of conservative political causes who has appeared in a Gramm campaign video. Others on the guest list were former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and his wife, Jeane Kirkpatrick, ex-U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and television newswomen Diane Sawyer and Barbara Walters, the mistress of ceremonies. Proceeds — estimated by a British newspaper at \$2.25 million — were to go to the Margaret Thatcher Foundation, established by the former British prime minister to spread her conservative economic gospel through post-Communist Eastern Europe. Lady Thatcher turned 70 on Oct. 13. She already celebrated her 70th on Sept. 27 with friends and former colleagues at her old 10 Downing St. residence, and on Oct. 17, at London's posh Claridge's, with around 200 rich and famous Britons, including Queen Elizabeth II.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists using declassified military data have produced a detailed map of the ocean floor that could benefit fishermen, oil and mineral prospectors and climate researchers. "This is a day of celebration," David T. Sandwell of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography said Monday. "We're having a data feast." Mr. Sandwell and Walter H.S. Smith of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) developed the highly detailed map using data collected by U.S. Navy and European Space Agency satellites.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union face deep hostility from veteran Israelis and are often stereotyped as draft dodgers, criminals and prostitutes, immigrant activist Nathan Sharansky said Tuesday. "People are encountering a form of libel and antisemitism that they experienced 30 years ago in Russia," said former Soviet dissident Sharansky, who came to Israel in 1986. "Suddenly we feel unwanted." Mr. Sharansky, who is expected to run for Israel's parliament next year, announced a campaign to improve Israeli attitudes towards Soviet immigrants, nearly 600,000 of whom have come to Israel in the past five years. At a news conference, Mr. Sharansky rattled off the stereotypes: Soviet immigrants are prostitutes or criminals with ties to the Russian mafia, they are not really Jewish, they do not serve in the army, and they only come to Israel to exploit the country financially.

British foreign secretary to visit Beirut

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Arafat tries to convince U.S. Jewish leaders of his commitment to peace

NEW YORK (AP) — He had walked the tightrope for years, from Beirut to Tunis to Gaza, and now he was walking in through the crowd, smiling and pumping hands like a politician seeking votes. But these were American Jewish leaders, and many had spent their adulthood fearing or hating Yasser Arafat.

"We are the sons of Abraham," Mr. Arafat said Monday in his first meeting with Jewish leaders in the United States. And, since peace is the policy of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "we are not only cousins, we are partners."

To these American Jews, televised pictures of Mr. Arafat talking with his old enemies are no longer shocking. Now, however, he was in the same room. And he was still up on the wire, trying to win over this audience while not losing all the others.

He did not say anything new to the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, stressing instead the problems of peace-making, especially his own.

As if to illustrate the point, several protesters started yelling before Mr. Arafat could speak.

Crying "shame" and "murderer" they were dragged out the door by security guards. Police arrested David Kalb, Meredith Weiss and the leader of their group, activist Rabbi Avi Weiss. All were charged with disorderly conduct. Kalb and Meredith Weiss were charged with re-

sisting arrest and Kalb was charged with assault for knocking down a detective.

Mr. Arafat seemed unruffled. He shook his head to minimise the intended insult. "I can understand all of this," he said, adding that peace would take time.

He said opponents of peace extended to his own movement. Yitzhak Rabin of Israel "is lucky. He has one opposition — I have many oppositions," he said, getting a laugh.

Mr. Arafat, notoriously late for appointments since arriving in New York to address the United Nations, arrived at 2:10 for a 2 p.m. meeting — early, by the standards of gridlocked Manhattan. He wore his familiar Kaffiyeh and bemedaled military uniform.

Waving a prepared text dismissively, he said, "I am speaking from the heart."

He tried throughout his hour talk to establish common ground between Israelis and Palestinians.

"We are paying the price for what was done by the British," he said, referring to Palestine's administrators before the creation of Israel after World War II.

After referring to the Jewish exodus, he said, "you have to understand also our exodus."

The audience chuckled at Mr. Arafat's little jokes and otherwise maintained a polite, tense silence — as when he talked about the PLO stand on Israel's right to exist and on the Arab boycott of Israel.

Occasionally he was defiant, as when he insisted, "you can't say it's not my country."

Although the words may have been extemporaneous, Mr. Arafat's audience said they heard most before.

"I appreciated that he didn't speak from notes, but he didn't say anything I hadn't heard before," said Rabbi Marla Feldman of Wilmington, Delaware. "A lot of it was not quite satisfying," she said, including Mr. Arafat's claim that Israelis offended by his use of "jihad" to Palestinian audiences do not understand "our terminology."

"Jihad" is generally taken to mean "holy war," but Mr. Arafat said it was used by the Prophet Muhammad to mean reconstruction on the home front after battle.

"That's the problem," said David Gad-Harf of the Jewish Community Council of metropolitan Detroit. "He speaks in different languages, literally and figuratively, to his people and the rest of the world."

At first, Mr. Gad-Harf was not sure how to greet Mr. Arafat, "who was responsible for the murders of hundreds of Jews through terrorist acts." But when Mr. Arafat walked to the podium Mr. Gad-Harf got up, acknowledging that Mr. Arafat was willing to spend some time with us in a busy schedule.

So there he was at the age of 41, clapping for a man he'd always regarded as a villain. "I never imagined this," he said.

Histradut financial scandal rocks Israeli ruling circles

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli police decided Tuesday to indict three former leaders of the Histradut trade union federation in connection with a financial scandal which has rocked Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party.

The three, who include Labour deputy Avi Yeheskel, are accused of embezzling trade union funds to finance the party's campaign in primaries ahead of the 1992 election.